

Ministers may order ballot of Civil Servants if unions reject pay offer

By David Felton
Labour Correspondent

Ministers are considering ordering a ballot of the 500,000 white collar Civil Servants to ascertain whether the union leaders who are set to reject the Treasury's proposals for a long-term pay system reflect the views of their members.

A decision on whether to hold the ballot is some way off but the move is a reflection of the Government's determination to establish a settled pay system for the Civil Service so as to act as a brake on pay unrest by Whitehall staff.

The Treasury told the unions yesterday that it had sanctioned a pay information survey by the Office of Manpower Economics, in preparation for next spring's wage negotiations, but gave a warning that the results of the survey will not be made available to the unions unless they accept the long-term system.

On present evidence the unions seem set on rejecting the system, which includes an element of comparability with salaries paid outside the Civil Service and restricted access to arbitration, although the key decisions will be taken at special conferences during the next two months.

However, the Government is understood to favour a two-pronged strategy to prevent a return to the pattern in the previous years of fragmented bargaining, involving a ballot of all staff or deals with individual unions with the negotiations based on elements of the Treasury's pay proposals.

A union decision on acceptance of the proposed system rests with the Council of Civil Service Unions, umbrella body for the eight unions, and a two-thirds majority of the 63 possible votes available would be required to win approval.

The Government will consider going over the heads of the council if there is an overall majority which fails to reach the necessary two-thirds. Senior government officials also point out that 20 per cent of the 500,000 white collar staff do not belong to any union.

Each union is adopting a different method for consulting its members but the outcome will rest with the largest union, the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), whose right-wing leadership voted by 14 to 11 to urge its members to back the proposals.

The CPSA is about to launch a campaign among its 140,000 membership ending with a special conference in January when a final decision will be taken. The conference is usually dominated by left wingers and a split in the right-wing indicates that Mr Alistair Graham, the moderate general secretary, will have difficulty persuading the conference to accept the Treasury plan.

The only other union whose executive has accepted the Treasury proposal is the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, but the Government is hoping that other unions, at the moment hostile, will have a change of heart.

A decision by the CPSA to accept the deal would probably be sufficient to trigger a Treasury decision to ballot the whole Civil Service.

The unions are urgently collecting data to support a joint pay claim, in preparation for rejection of the system, so as to avoid a repeat of this year's negotiations with each union submitting individual claims and holding separate negotiations.

Between 4,500 and 5,000 Civil Servants were said to be on strike but the department said that only 51 offices were closed and the remainder open to the public. The department said it was prepared to discuss the claim for extra staff.

The action has been taken as part of a campaign by the unions to persuade the Government to increase staffing at the local offices by 15,000.

A similar one-day strike is planned for next month in north London and the northern Home Counties and there have also been suggestions of walkouts in Scottish benefit offices.

Benefit offices close for day

At least 51 Department of Health and Social Security benefit offices in London and the South-east were closed yesterday because of a one-day strike called by Civil Service unions in protest against shortages in the offices.

The unions said last night that of the 86 local offices in south London and an area stretching from Kent to Hampshire, 70 were closed to the public.

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Central figures at Liverpool City Council's finance committee meeting yesterday (from left): Mr Tony Byrne, finance chairman, Mr Derek Hatton, deputy leader, and Mr Tony Mulhearn, president of the Liverpool Labour Party.

Liverpool budget wins support

By Robin Young

Liverpool City Council's finance committee yesterday approved the compromise budget plans to avert bankruptcy accepted by the city's Labour party. The package now goes to the full council for ratification on Friday.

The key to the proposals is the capitalization of £23.4 million in housing repair and maintenance money. It will be used to pay for jobs and services until the end of the year, and will be made up with a loan from a consortium of Swiss banks.

The loan has been agreed with the bankers subject to three conditions: that the council undertakes to act lawfully in future, recognises its income and expenditure in line with the terms of reference of the Stonefort report, and obtains Department of the Environment approval.

The package also includes taking up the offer of £3 million in unused loan sanctions from other Labour-controlled local authorities, and cuts of £3 million in Liverpool's expenditure.

Mr Tony Byrne, Liverpool's left-wing finance chairman, called on the Department of the Environment to immediately indicate its support for the agreement, and brushed aside Conservative group demands that he should resign.

Mr Chris Hallows, the Conservative group leader on the council, claimed that Mr Byrne had made it "a point of principle" that he would never accept capitalization, which the Tories had been demanding for months.

Mr Hallows said: "By your actions over the last few months you have drained the resources of this city and the confidence and will of the people. The morale within the corporation workforce has sunk to an absolutely all-time low." He said attracting investment to Liverpool had become impossible.

Mr Byrne replied that the proposed scheme meant the city's capital programmes would not be affected. "If there is a risk to the capital programme as a result of this, I won't need you to call on me to resign, because we will all be gone," he said.

Mr Derek Hatton, the deputy Labour leader, described the compromise as "nothing but a setback", involving no rent or rate increases and no cuts in the housing programme. The setback was "entirely due to the Tory Government, the Liberal administration before us and above all the treachery of the Labour national leadership and some trade union members".

Councillor Tony Mulhearn, the Liverpool Labour president, warned that the city would find itself in the same position next year unless a massive campaign could ensure that extra Government resources were brought to Liverpool.

Sir Trevor Jones, the Liberal leader, claimed the budget would mean cuts of £9.75 million over a full year, the £3 million only covering the period until April.

Mr Michael Reddington, the city treasurer, told the committee that the council still had to pay off between £40 million and £50 million in debt repayments from existing loans by the end of this financial year.

Mr John Forrester, the moderate Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent North for 19 years, who lost a re-election contest to Mrs Joan Walley, a member of the rebel Lambeth Council in London, said yesterday that the Labour Treasury was jeopardising Labour's chances at the next election.

Clash on number of pits hitting targets

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Editor

The National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers clashed yesterday over the interpretation of new figures showing that only 21 out of more than 120 pits met the board's latest operating targets for the first six months of the financial year.

The union published in *The Miner* a fresh list of the production costs per tonne for every colliery which was taken from NCB figures regularly distributed to the unions. The list shows that 121 collieries in that period produced coal at more than £38 per tonne, the target threshold the NCB has told the unions it wants to establish that a pit is viable.

The figures paint a bleak picture of the struggle many pits will have to bring costs down, particularly as the majority have costs per tonne of more than £42 per tonne, the medium-term costs ceiling envisaged by the NCB.

But the NCB emphatically denied last night the claim by the NUM that the figures mean that the overwhelming majority of the 120 pits were "under immediate threat according to the NCB's criteria".

The board said the figures were affected by recovery from the strike and the overtime ban which preceded it; by the first half year colliery annual holidays; by slowdowns in production caused by development work and new investment. It maintained that a "financial snapshot" of the pits did not reflect "real operating circumstances". It pointed out that Selby, which is just beginning to benefit from more than £1 billion in investment, was listed by the NUM as among those vulnerable to closure.

The argument came as pressure continued in Leicestershire for an area ballot on whether to join the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, after calls from three of the area's four pits for a ballot. But an area council, which had been expected to discuss the issue yesterday, did not take place.

Mr Terry Hughes, the area's president, said he would be proposing a ballot when Mr Jack Jones, the Leicestershire area secretary, called the council meeting.

● Miners in Stoke-on-Trent yesterday set up Staffordshire's first branch of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. And the miners, employed at the Trentham workshops, believe dozens of pits at Stoke-on-Trent's Hensall colliery are poised to form the second north Staffordshire branch.



Geoffrey Smith

It ought in theory to be one of the great parliamentary occasions when the House of Commons debates the Northern Ireland agreement today and tomorrow. Here is the opportunity for MPs to the Government on an ingenious but controversial initiative which is intended to provide a peaceful solution to the United Kingdom's greatest internal crisis for more than half a century.

Yet it will in practice be a debate whose outcome is certain but will settle nothing. The Government will win an overwhelming majority in the vote and may not even be pressed hard in debate.

The main assault will come from the Ulster Unionists, who command neither the ear nor the sympathy of the House. They will have even fewer friends if the tone is set for them by the Rev Ian Paisley's ranting. Apart from them, there will be a dozen or so Conservative dissidents, who fear that Mrs Thatcher is selling out the Protestants, and possibly a few Labour members who do not believe that she is going far enough to please the Roman Catholics.

The threat to this agreement does not, however, lie in Westminster. The farther one gets away from Northern Ireland itself the better it looks.

TUC and Labour to push for pay accord

By Our Labour Editor

The TUC and Labour Party are to begin discussions on pay in earnest in the hope of drawing up a joint document for distribution to union conferences next spring.

The plans to hasten the process of outlining an accord covering "fair wages, including a national minimum wage" were agreed at a meeting of the TUC Labour Liaison Committee yesterday, attended by Mr Neil Kinnock, the party leader, and Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Chancellor.

Although the terse phraseology in a document presented yesterday to the committee makes no mention of the delicate topic of incomes policy, moderates on the TUC general council are likely to see the move as a step in the direction of a more general agreement on pay.

The process has been given a boost by the Labour Party conference's commitment to a statutory minimum wage.

A study by the Policy Studies Institute gives a warning that continued high unemployment could mean a sharp change in "the present essentially positive trade-union attitudes" to new technology.

In a survey of factories using new technology, only 7 per cent reported opposition from the shop floor, or from other unions, to be "a major obstacle".

Chips and Jobs (PST, 100 Park Village, East London, NW1 3SR, £8.95).

Success for anti-cancer experiment

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

An experimental vaccine has succeeded in protecting monkeys against a virus that is known to cause two types of malignant tumours in people. The achievement comes after 10 years of research by a team at Bristol University medical school working with Professor Tony Epstein.

A systematic search for a vaccine was mounted after the original isolation of the virus, named Epstein-Barr virus for the professor in the department of pathology at Bristol, who discovered it. The virus, one of the five human herpes viruses, was found in cultures of cells obtained from two types of tumours: one known as Burkitt's lymphoma and the other a type of cancer of the nose.

Burkitt's lymphoma is a painful swelling of the lymph glands and neck glands, from which thousands of children in Africa, China and South-east Asia die annually. The type of nose cancer involved is also most common in South-east Asia.

This first demonstration of a vaccine that can prevent a cancer is reported by the scientists in a paper in the latest issue of *Nature*.

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Thames Water sets 3% rise

Thames Water, largest of the 10 authorities that supply most of the drinking water in England and Wales, decided yesterday to raise charges by 3 per cent next year.

That is the increase that Thames wanted this year until the Government forced it to push charges up by 10 per cent in order to meet financial targets.

MPs to question ending TB jabs

Health ministers are to be questioned by MPs on proposals to halt the routine vaccination of school children against tuberculosis by 1990.

● The number of children infected in a Devon outbreak last year, referred to in *The Times* yesterday, should have read 33, not 332.

Unionist pressure on Powell to resign

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Pressure is mounting on Mr Enoch Powell to give a written undertaking before the start of today's House of Commons debate on the Anglo-Irish agreement that he will resign his Westminster seat and join 14 colleagues in fighting by-elections next year.

The leadership of the Official Unionist Party hopes that their MP for Down South will quickly end damaging speculation about his future political intentions; yesterday, however, they were in the embarrassing position of being unable to say whether he would support them.

Mr Powell's failure to appear with 14 other Unionist MPs at a "loyalist" rally in Belfast at the weekend and to sign a declaration promising that he would resign has angered and irritated many in the party who consider his absence to have undermined what was intended as a display of Unionist unity.

His position, and the suspicion that he is less than wholehearted about the strategy of resigning seats at Westminster to fight by-elections early next year, has tended to overshadow the impact of the rally, and in private there is undisguised hostility towards him. One Unionist politician said: "The attention is focusing on him and his position to the detriment of our cause. His behaviour has been appalling."

Yesterday Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionist Party, was unable to give a clear answer when asked three times if he was confident he could rely on the support of Mr Powell, an Official Unionist MP for 11 years. Mr Molyneux refused to pre-judge what Mr Powell might say when invited to resign his seat, but added: "When a party leader issues an invitation to resign, it is always accepted. I would have been disappointed if any of my other colleagues had refused to resign their seat."

Mr Molyneux said he hoped to see Mr Powell, who has a majority of only 548, before the start of this afternoon's debate so he could clarify his colleague's position and ask him to sign the declaration.

As Mr Molyneux became increasingly irritated at the questioning in Belfast, it was left to his deputy, Mr Harold McCusker, Official Unionist MP for Upper Bann, to increase the pressure on his parliamentary colleagues by saying: "In 11 years Mr Powell has been one of the most loyal members of the Parliamentary party. I don't think he has deviated from the decisions of that Parliamentary party in the 11 years."

"I take his word as his bond when he said last week that that was one of the fundamental principles guiding his membership of our parliamentary party, and that he would take seriously the invitation extended to him and maintain the solidarity he has shown during his term at Westminster."

When asked what might be in Mr Powell's mind, Mr McCusker replied: "Enoch Powell's mind is one of those few minds that one has not had an opportunity to reach."

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Better control of hospital projects

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities' control over big hospital building projects has improved markedly in the past five years, according to the National Health Service annual report published yesterday.

A sample of 36 building projects, each costing more than £5 million and completed by 1984, shows that the average cost over-run is down to about 1.7 per cent, or £100,000, and on average they were completed six weeks late.

A similar sample of pre-1980 schemes showed the average cost over-run in today's prices was closer to £700,000, or 11.6 per cent, while on average the schemes were completed more than 10 months late.

The report says much of the credit is due to the "nucleus" hospital design, a standardized design that allows for later expansion, which has "largely eliminated the escalating costs and late completion which caused frequent problems in the past". Sixteen nucleus hospitals have been completed, with 32 more at tender or construction stage.

In the past five years NHS capital spending has produced 11,500 new hospital beds, 189 new operating theatres, 122 X-ray rooms, 27 accident and emergency departments and 25 new out-patient departments.

The Health Service in England: Annual report 1985; (Stationery Office, £6.20).

How long before the milkround turns sour?

There's one thing a spell at University always guarantees. Plenty of 'milkround' visits from company executives.

Each and every one of them has well-paid jobs to offer.

But before signing on the dotted line, think very carefully.

Will the promises turn out to be empty? Will the job suit your particular abilities and skills?

These are not the sort of questions you can answer in 3 minutes. So why not take 3 years to decide your future - as an Army Officer?

On completion of your training at Sandhurst you will be commissioned as a Lieutenant earning £9,679.

Naturally you will learn how to command and care for a group of bright young soldiers and to handle our sophisticated weapons and equipment.

And if you are posted abroad at short notice to lead soldiers in unfamiliar surroundings you'd have to cope.

No wonder many leading industrialists regard an Army Commission as the best management training a young man or woman can have.

Whether you make the Army your long-term career or leave earlier is up to you.

Either way it promises not to sour your future. Quite the opposite in fact. And you'll gain unrivalled executive training at our expense.

So if you need a little more time to decide, see your Careers Staff and pick up an Introduction Form.

Through this we will arrange for a Liaison Officer to see you at your University, Polytechnic, or College of Higher Education.

Army Officer

SDP proposes £1,410m scheme to train young

A plan to end full-time employment for 16 and 17 year olds was proposed yesterday by the Social Democratic Party.

The proposals, which could cost up to £1,410 million in 1988, would not only give a new deal to those aged between 16 and 19 but would also make some extra jobs available for the older unemployed. Cutting the working week for 16 and 17 year olds by two days would mean more work for older people looking for jobs, the SDP says.

The proposals are contained in a new SDP discussion Green Paper, *Tertiary Education for All*, which sets out the party's strategy for the education and training of 16 to 19 year olds. It draws attention to the falling level of skill training and proposes an immediate £200 million cash programme to reverse the decline.

The SDP's long term programme includes: a new legal obligation on employers to release 16 to 17 year olds for two days a week; government support for shared "starter jobs" and a "young student grant" paid direct to full-time 16-19 students.

Chauffeur's abortion claim 'a lie'

The claim by Anthony Howard, former chauffeur of the millionaire, Mrs Soraya Khashoggi, that she had an abortion after becoming pregnant by him was untrue, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr John Aspinall, for the prosecution, was making his final speech in the trial of Mr Howard, aged 39, who is accused of stealing more than 400 items worth £100,000 from Mrs Khashoggi.

Mr Howard claims he had an affair with Mrs Khashoggi and that she gave him the property, as a gift, for safekeeping or for repair.

Referring to Mr Howard's suggestion that the three-times married Mrs Khashoggi, aged 44, had an abortion, Mr Aspinall said she had not been given the chance to deal with the claim during her evidence.

"Do you think anybody, if what he is describing had occurred, would have pursued a lying allegation of theft, knowing he would have that sort of information to throw at her?"

Mr Aspinall told the jury to reject any suggestion that Mrs Khashoggi had any reason, through love or affection, to have given Mr Howard the property.

Both Mr Aspinall and Mr Michael Beckman, QC, for the defence, told the jury that someone in the case was telling a pack of lies.

The hearing continues today.

Walkout over GLC abolition

Fifty members of the National and Local Government Officers Association at the Greater London Council walked out yesterday because one was told to take on work related to next year's abolition of the Labour-led council.

A union spokesman said that the member had been told to work for a council committee preparing to make way for a new board of London borough councillors which will take over GLC management of the capital's fire brigade. The GLC would not comment.

Fowler appeal on lodging decision

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, yesterday launched an appeal against the High Court's ruling in July that the Government's bed and breakfast regulations for the unemployed are unlawful.

Under the regulations new lower limits were set on payments for bed and breakfast accommodation, and many young people aged under 26 were forced to move on every two to eight weeks.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$10.50, Belgium 10.00, Canada \$10.00, Denmark 10.00, France 10.00, Germany 10.00, Greece 10.00, Hong Kong \$10.00, India 10.00, Ireland 10.00, Italy 10.00, Japan 10.00, Korea 10.00, Luxembourg 10.00, Malaysia 10.00, Mexico 10.00, Netherlands 10.00, New Zealand 10.00, Norway 10.00, Pakistan 10.00, Portugal 10.00, Singapore 10.00, South Africa 10.00, Spain 10.00, Sweden 10.00, Switzerland 10.00, Taiwan 10.00, Thailand 10.00, Turkey 10.00, USA 10.00, West Germany 10.00, Yugoslavia 10.00.

Double dilemma for Government

There is a double dilemma here. For the British Government, the joint ministerial conference superfluous. But they do not seem to be thinking along these lines.

Perhaps the withdrawal of Protestant consent - with the threat of rent, rates and possibly a tax strike - could make Northern Ireland ungovernable. In the background there lurks the shadow of another workers' strike and even violence. But the very measures that might force Mrs Thatcher's hand would be precisely those which would disgust British opinion with the Northern Irish connection altogether.

Most coaches go slower than speed limits demand, survey finds

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Up to 30 per cent of coaches on dual carriageways and 25 per cent on motorways exceeded the speed limit during Department of Transport surveys last year.

The figures support last month's action by the Government after the M6 coach crash, in which 13 people died when

compulsory speed governors were ordered to be fitted in an effort to stop coaches speeding. However, according to the department figures, most coaches were travelling well below the maximum speed. On dual carriageways, where the limit is 60 mph, coach speeds averaged 52.54 mph; on motorways, where the limit is 70 mph,

the average speed was 63.64 mph.

Road casualties increased slightly in 1984 after several years of decline, with deaths up 3 per cent to 5,569, serious injuries up 3 per cent to 73,000, and minor injuries up 5 per cent to 245,000. The 10-year trend, which fell from 154 casualties per 100 kilometres in 1974 to 115 in 1983, rose a point to 116 last year. Preliminary results suggest it has started to fall again in 1985.

Pedestrian deaths in 1984 were 29 per cent down over the decade, at 1,868, but motorcycle deaths were 21 per cent up at 967.

Cyclists killed were 22 per cent up at 345, although cycle traffic had risen 50 per cent during the period. Car occupants killed were 20 per cent down at 2,179, in spite of a 35 per cent rise in car traffic.

The report also showed that road accidents in Britain cost £2.65 million in 1984, £90 million up on 1983 while accidents to learner motorcyclists have dropped 90 per cent since they were restricted to small 125cc machines.

Road accidents account for 49 per cent of Britain's accidental deaths, and 78 per cent of those to people aged between 15 to 19, and alcohol is associated with one in four people killed on the road.

Britain had fewer road deaths than most other countries in 1983, only Norway, Sweden and Japan were better. But for pedestrians, Britain's record was not so good, with lower death rates in 11 other countries.

Teacher's fight to control crash coach

A coach carrying a party of British school children ran out of control and crashed on a French road, killing seven people on board after the driver suffered a stroke at the wheel, an inquest heard yesterday.

Mr Ian Laycock, a school teacher, grabbed the steering wheel and fought desperately to control the vehicle as it gathered speed and careered from one side of the road to the other, but he could not prevent it from tipping on to its roof, the inquest jury at St Albans, Hertfordshire, was told.

Verdicts of accidental death were returned on all seven victims.

The crash occurred last May 29 just before midday on Route 110 near Lédignan in the south of France.

The coach driver, Mr Harry Hughes, aged 39, was taking a party of 45 passengers, including pupils and teachers from two St Albans schools, Verulam and Beaumont, from a holiday centre. Parents and relatives of those who died sat at the back

of the courtroom as the St Albans Coroner, Dr Arnold Mendoza, read to the jury a report from the French authorities.

He said that according to the French authorities a safety barrier by the side of the road "acted like a elastic" and prevented the vehicle from falling into a stream after the driver had become unwell.

But, Dr Mendoza continued, "in spite of the actions of one of the passengers, Ian Laycock, the coach continued for a distance of 40 metres".

He said the coach struck the wall of a culvert causing it to swing round, then it turned over and came to rest on its roof.

Some passengers scrambled out, but others remained trapped in the vehicle. Thirty-nine people were injured.

The dead were: Stephen Eke, aged 14, Duncan Halshead, aged 13, Matthias Lasky, aged 14, Ann Morris, aged 13, Jacqueline Francis, aged 17, Hughes, of Fittwick, Beds, and Miss Barbara Ericsson, 26, of St Albans.

Egg board to be wound up

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Eggs Authority is to be wound up after a 15-year existence, Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, told the Commons yesterday.

The authority was established under the Agriculture Act 1970, charged with improving the marketing of eggs through advertising, market intelligence and research and development. It is, or was, one of a number of statutory marketing organisations, of which the best known is the Milk Marketing Board and the newest Food from Britain.

The Government announced last February that it was to review the usefulness of the Eggs Authority, and established a committee which reported in July. Comments on the report were then invited from interested organisations.

Mr Jopling said yesterday that the Government had taken "careful note" of the representations received. "We do not consider we would be justified in retaining a statutory authority which does not command widespread support from the industry concerned", he added.

Other statutory boards are responsible for the marketing of cereals, sugar, potatoes, wool, apples and pears, and hops. None is thought to be under immediate threat, although the Potato Marketing Board has for some time been at loggerheads with a number of dissident producers.

Bomb blast at Iran legation

An Iranian woman was slightly injured yesterday when a bomb hidden in a parcel erupted at the Iranian consulate in Kensington, west London. The woman, a clerk, received injuries to her hand.

The device was delivered in morning mail to the consulate in Kensington Court.

Inquiry delayed

An inquiry into a head-on train crash earlier this month on the London to Brighton line at Haywards Heath, due to open today, has been postponed because one of the train drivers involved is unwell, the Department of Transport said yesterday.

Siege ends

A siege at a gun and tackle shop in Edinburgh ended yesterday after seven hours when a man gave himself up to the police. He was suffering from mild hypothermia and was taken to hospital.

Berlioz tops ITV Christmas list

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

ITV's Christmas schedules include a dramatization by Anthony Burgess of Berlioz's Christmas oratorio, *L'Enfance du Christ*, and the silver jubilee of the popular soap opera, *Coronation Street*, the commercial channel announced yesterday.

The BBC is not expected to disclose its Christmas offerings until early next month, partly because of uncertainty over whether the American soap opera *Dallas* will return to the

Underground trip for Duke



The Duke of Edinburgh went 700ft underground in a pit cage yesterday (left) to see Chatterley Whitfield mining museum in Stoke-on-Trent.

For the Prince it was just like going on shift as a miner for he had to put on a helmet, overalls and a pair of Wellington boots. He was taken right down to the coalface, which is now part of the museum, attracting thousands of people from all over the country.

The museum's coalface is due to be flooded next year when pumping operations cease at the nearby Wolstanton colliery, which is closing. Another coalface is to be created for visitors.

Farmer escapes penalty of wildlife law

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

A farmer who dug up scarce wild flowers to plant swedes escaped all penalties under wildlife law, the Nature Conservancy Council said yesterday.

Mr William Wilkinson, chairman of the council, said that the level of damage to important wildlife haunts was "quite unacceptable".

The swede case was one of more than 200 in which damage was done last year to land classed as a site of special scientific interest. It was also one of eight cases in which the scientific interest was destroyed.

The five acres of land on Broadstone Meadow in Hereford and Worcester used to support many wild plants, including the scarce meadow saffron, which produces a mauve flower like that of a crocus, late in the summer.

The council's wildlife quango, said in its latest annual report that the case against the owner had been dismissed on technical grounds. Wildlife law had since been tightened.

Report 1984/85 (Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough, Cambs PE1 1UA).

Both were part of a team investigating the £29 million Brinks-Mat gold bullion robbery at Heathrow Airport, London.

Det Con Murphy said he had tried to draw the dogs away from his colleague and distract a man with a shotgun and torch he saw searching the shrubbery.

Shortly afterwards Det Con Fordham was stabbed fatally 10 times in the back and chest, and laying dying on the freezing ground.

Two men have denied murdering Det Con Fordham last January 26 at Hollywood Cottage, West Kingsdown, Kent. They are the owner of the cottage, Kenneth Noye, aged 37, and Brian Reader, aged 45, unemployed, of Winn Road, Grove Park, in south-east London.

The case continues.



Women at the top: (from left) Amelia Gilbert, company director, Denise Wyatt, joint managing director, and Janet Brady, public relations director, at the women's conference (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Women in business find 'Dynasty' ally

By Patricia Clough

A plea for an end to the notion that women cannot get to the top in business and industry without losing their femininity was raised by Lady Warnock, Mistress of Girton College Cambridge, yesterday.

"The notion that by succeeding academically or later, by succeeding in any management you thereby destroy your femininity is the most pervasive threat against women that there is", she said.

Lady Warnock was speaking at the first conference organised by the Institute of Directors specifically for women.

The IoD, one of the most persistently male institutions in British business, has noticed that although women are entering business in large numbers, only 3 per cent of its members are female and it is aiming to attract more.

While Lady Warnock was urging parents and teachers to help change the prejudices towards women, it appeared

as though help might be coming from an unexpected ally - the actress Joan Collins, alias Alexis Carrington, head of an all empire in the television series *Dynasty*.

A group of sixth-form schoolgirls at the conference had each spent a week watching a woman executive at work, in a scheme pioneered by the IoD and the Department of Trade. Several of the girls revealed that the Joan Collins-

Alexis figure had been at the back of their minds when they started.

"Everyone says that (*Dynasty*) is what it's like", Sara de la Warr, of Maidstone, who shadowed Mrs Theresa Wickham, outgoing chairman of the National Womens Farmers Union, said. "But now I take a more realistic view. You get thrills in other ways." She, like most of the other girls, is just as keen to go into business.

The girl aged 10, whom the

magistrates ordered should not be named, disappeared from the Bel-Air caravan site at St Osyth in 1982 and was found five hours later 90 miles away at Great Yarmouth.

Mr Hopkins will be detained in a police cell until his next appearance. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

The girl aged 10, whom the

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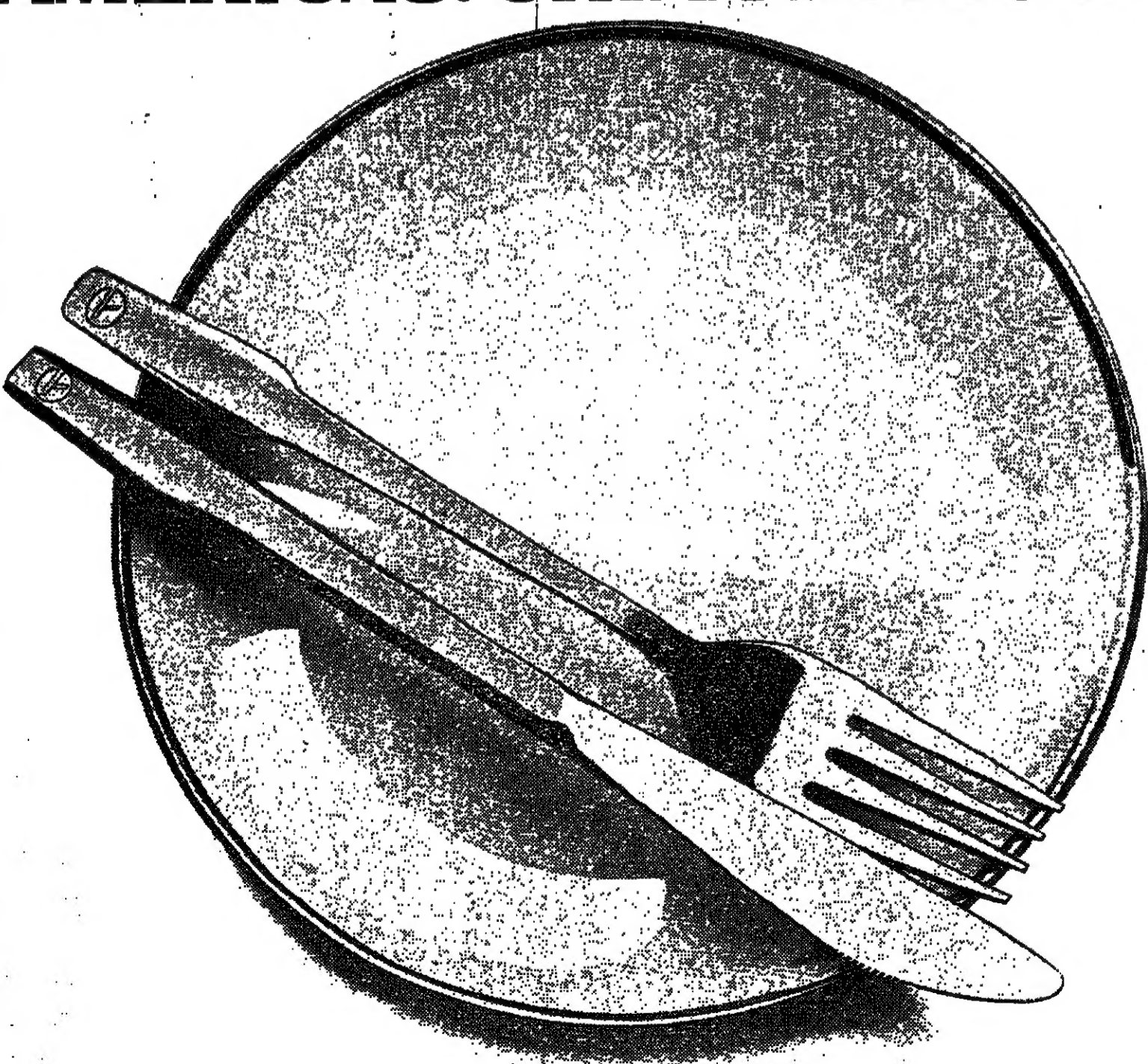
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Sale of British Gas not an electoral bribe

PRIVATIZATION

An allegation by Mr Peter Hardy (Wentworth, Lab) that the Government intended to privatize British Gas to get the funds for an electoral bribe was denied by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, during Commons questions.

When Mr Hardy asked the minister how many letters he had received making this suggestion, he replied: Many letters stating this sort of argument have been on Labour Party letter headings. Mr Hardy had also asked how many letters had suggested the intention to privatize British Gas was based simply on a rather ugly dogma. The organization was inherently and significantly successful.

Mr Peter Pike (Burnley, Lab) said the public felt there was no need for British Gas to be taken into private ownership.

Mr Walker said in that case he would look forward to fighting the next election with Labour fighting to renationalize British Gas.

Mr Ronald Davies (Caerphilly, Lab) said gas prices had risen 36 per cent in real terms in the last six years and that this fell heavily on the low paid and those on fixed incomes.

Mr Walker: I am sure that the methods we will employ in terms of regulation will mean that consumers will benefit from the improving efficiency of British Gas.

Mrs Elaine Kellott-Bowman (Lan-

caster, C) said she favoured privatization, but she sought an assurance that the elderly and disabled would continue to have the code, a good one, to protect them from disconnections.

Mr Walker: It is the intention of British Gas to continue with the same code of practice.

Sir Dudley Smith (Warwick and Leamington, C) asked what would be done for the significant minority who were affronted because they did not have a gas supply.

Mr Walker said there would be provisions under the legislation whereby it would be open to outside organizations to supply gas where British Gas did not do so.

He said later that for the domestic user, street by street, there had not been any competition since 1845. Nor did it exist around the world.

Perhaps improvements could be made on the 1983 energy enterprise Act under which competition could apply. But competition by having several gas pipes down one street was not likely.

Mr Edward Snowden, an Opposition spokesman on energy, said that often domestic telephone users had been protected by OfTel. The gas equivalent would be as ineffective as OfTel.

Mr Walker said that when Mr Rowlands was an active member of the last Labour Government, in one year without a regulator, prices were raised by 12 per cent and six months later.

Walker tackled on coal mine safety

COAL INDUSTRY

The only thing that had assisted creation of a separate miners' union was the behaviour of the leader of the National Union of Mineworkers, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, told the Commons during question time exchanges on the allegation that bribes had been offered to NUM officials to persuade them to go over to the Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

Had it not been for the behaviour of Mr Arthur Scargill, there would not be a separate union today, said Mr Walker.

Mr Alex Eadie, an Opposition spokesman on energy, had said Mr Walker must be aware of the allegations of bribery by the National Coal Board to assist the formation of the breakaway union.

Since the statement of Mr Jack Jones, leader of the Lefebvreshire NUM, about being offered a pension and a car in a most serious offence indeed, would Mr Walker suspend Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the NCB, pending an inquiry into the whole matter?

Mr Walker made no response to this request, referring instead to Mr Scargill's role in the creation of the UDM.

Earlier Mr Roy Mason (Barnsley, Central, Lab) asked if Mr Walker had yet decided upon legislation to

assist miners who, having been on strike for 12 months, were now in doubt about their entitlements to miners' redundancy pension benefits.

Would the Secretary of State make a statement to give these men reassurance for the future?

Mr Walker said the matter was being considered with the Department of Health and Social Security and a statement would be made when a conclusion had been reached.

Mr Michael Foot (Blaenau Gwent, Lab) raised with Mr Walker the letter on pit safety in Monday's issue of *The Times* from Mr Peter McNulty, National Secretary of the National Association of Colliery Overseas, Domestic and Shaftfired. In the light of Mr McNulty's letter (said Mr Foot) can Mr Walker give an undertaking that he will set in hand an immediate investigation to ensure no illegal, illicit or other kind of pressures are brought to bear to reduce safety standards in the pits?

Mr Walker: Obviously, action should be taken by the normal authorities against anything illegal. I know of no such action being taken.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Opening of debate on motion to approve Anglo-Irish agreement. Lords (2.30): Debate on motion to approve Anglo-Irish agreement.

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Jobs being created at rate of 500 a month

EMPLOYMENT

In a little over a year of operation, National Coal Board (Enterprise) Ltd had committed direct financial assistance to 188 projects, amounting to some £4 million, and these funds had so far helped to create some 2,700 potential jobs opportunities throughout the coalfields.

Mr David Hunt, Under Secretary of State for Energy, said during Commons questions.

Mr John Hames (Exeter, C): This Government is doing more for jobs and enterprise in mining areas than any previous Labour Government.

Mr Hunt: When 330 pits were closed by the Labour Party there was no enterprise company. This Government strongly supports this excellent initiative by the NCB to breathe new life into the declining mining areas. The enterprise company is supporting projects which are creating jobs at the rate of 500 a month.

Mrs Ann Cwyd (Cynon Valley, Lab): Since 1979 we have lost 11,000 jobs in the mining industry in Wales and only 700 alternative jobs have been promised. Where are the other jobs coming from?

Mr Hunt: She should be aware of the excellent initiative in her own constituency, where, thanks to the enterprise company, the Merthyr Enterprise Agency is to extend its operations into the Cynon Valley.

The NCB on Friday handed over a substantial cheque to the Merthyr and Aberdare Enterprise Agency and that will be the first of three annual instalments in support of the newly-expanded agency.

Mr Kevin Barron (Rother Valley, Lab): Job creation under NCB Enterprise Ltd is very small indeed in relation to the jobs that have been lost since the end of the strike in South Yorkshire. It would be a lot better if the NCB, instead of closing pits and making people unemployed, kept pits open.

Mr Hunt: For coal to survive in this competitive world it must be competitive itself. All the steps necessary must be taken to make sure there is not only competition in coal in future but that it is also a competitive product.

Mr Michael Foot (Blaenau Gwent, Lab): Will he on behalf of the Government give an absolute assurance that this scheme will not be abandoned after a year or so, but will be expanded?

It is modelled on a scheme introduced in the steel industry and one of the first things Mr MacGregor did when he went to the steel industry was to say he was going to run down the strike in response to a request from the National Farmers' Union, he would be instituting a poll of the industry early in the new year to determine the degree of support for a horticultural development council to collect a levy with which to fund research and development.

A Government amendment to the Bill would be brought forward to abolish the Eggs Authority. The

Minister seeking closer partnership with farmers to protect the environment

AGRICULTURE

A partnership between the Government and farmers intended to give new protection to areas of national environmental importance was the key theme of the Agriculture Bill which came before the Commons for its second reading.

Mr Michael Jopling, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, told MPs that farmers in designated areas would be offered payments to follow practices which respected local environmental needs.

The minister also announced it had been decided to wind up the Eggs Authority. A clause will be introduced into the Bill for this purpose.

Moving the second reading, Mr Jopling said it sought to reinforce the partnership between Government and the agriculture industry.

For many years governments had provided a range of regulatory, advisory and research services to the farming industry. More recently, the industry had been encouraged to respond more to the needs of the market.

The Bill was not structured to cover the industry but to provide a framework within which it could voluntarily influence in new ways the provision of advisory, research and marketing services and respond to the needs of the environment.

Farmers, growers and others were prepared to pay for the clearest possible signal. He did not plan to charge for the kind of advice now given to farmers on conservation, rural diversification or animal welfare issues. Nor was he looking to the industry to fund each and every project from which the Government had decided to withdraw.

He had said in May that he saw advantage in making it possible for each sector of the industry to contribute to research and development either voluntarily or by means of sectoral levies operated by appropriate statutory bodies. Discussions with the industry on the details were still going on.

The Sugar Beet Research and Education Committee had for many years operated smoothly to provide industry funds for relevant research work. There, and in the milk sector, no new powers were needed to operate sectoral levy systems.

The Bill included changes in the constitutional arrangements for the Home Grown Cereals Authority and the Meat and Livestock Commission which would enable each of those bodies, if the relevant sector wished, to raise additional levy funds for research and development purposes and to decide how any such funds could be spent. The Bill would also make it possible for oilseeds sector to come under the wing of the Home Grown Cereals Authority.

Representatives of the horticulture industry had already shown themselves prepared to make a substantial contribution to research and development in their sector, in response to a request from the National Farmers' Union, he would be instituting a poll of the industry early in the new year to determine the degree of support for a horticultural development council to collect a levy with which to fund research and development.

A Government amendment to the Bill would be brought forward to abolish the Eggs Authority. The

sector might prefer voluntary arrangements but he would be prepared to consider the creation of an industrial development council for eggs if producers favoured raising levies to fund appropriate research and development.

Food from Britain had made an excellent start and he was delighted that farmers' unions and the Food and Drink Federation were supporting its continuation. If the relevant sectors wished to provide funds through sectoral levies, the mechanisms relating to research including those in the Bill could be brought into play.

They were adopting a voluntary approach on research and development on marketing, requiring no sector to contribute, but hoping that most would decide to do so, as it would be in their interests to do.

He had concluded that they should take this opportunity of simplifying existing powers on advisory services, adopting a uniform category of persons eligible to receive advice and providing more flexibility to enable ADAs to respond efficiently to the changing needs of industry and the market.

The Bill would replace existing measures with a single straightforward authority to maintain an appropriate advisory, organization and services, including advice, and goods relating to agricultural matters including conservation and diversification.



Jopling: Countryside was created by farmers

Changes in the Bill were designed to make it possible for the Home Grown Cereals Authority to play a wider role in research and development and promotion if the industry wanted.

The coverage of that authority could be extended under the Bill to other defined arable crops if the sectors concerned wished to provide industry funds through the authority.

The most important change affecting the Meat and Livestock Commission was the introduction of new flexibility into the commission's levy-raising powers. The main purpose was to enable the commission to implement plans to raise new funds from livestock producers for theme and species promotion of meat. The commission was increased in size from 10 to 11.

The Council of Food from Britain was to be increased in due course from 15 to 21.

The Bill, through clause 9, introduced new protection for areas of environmental importance. The clause represented the latest stage of an initiative he launched in the EEC over a year ago.

He had persuaded the Community to strengthen its recognition

of the vital relationship between agriculture and the environment. Britain's efforts bore fruit in the farm structures regulations agreed by the Council of Ministers in March. Article 19 of that regulation permitted member states to afford new protection to areas of national environmental importance.

Clause 9 would empower the Government to implement this major development. It authorized the Government to designate environmentally sensitive areas, and to draw up contracts with farmers offering those who followed farming practices which respected the environmental needs of their area. The clause had been widely drafted so as to provide the flexibility needed to protect the diverse landscape, wildlife and other features of the countryside.

Most farmers (he said) are willing custodians of the beauty and well-being of the countryside. They look to Government for advice and encouragement in the best ways of pursuing this role.

The clause will provide that advice shall also be given to important areas of the country where uncontrolled agricultural change could put at risk our rural heritage. The theme of the clause is partnership between the Government and the farmers.

The partnership would embrace agriculture ministers, statutory conservation bodies and, in England, the Secretary of State for the Environment. Farmers would receive payments in return for following environmentally beneficial practices.

I expect (Mr Jopling continued) that we shall also hear those who argue that the industry needs to be dragged into respecting the environment and that more bureaucratic controls are the answer. We shall be told our policies do not go far enough, I reject that.

I have confidence in the industry's respect for the environment. The countryside of this country as we know it has been created largely by the activities of farmers.

Farmers have responded and are responding to the needs of the environment. With a little help from the Government, the industry can make an even larger contribution to the sort of environment which you and I, and the people of this country, want to see around them.

Mr Brynner John, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture, said the Opposition welcomed the environmental clause and would therefore not divide against the Bill on second reading.

They would not be satisfied with five or six sites for long because the Countryside Commission had already identified, in England and Wales alone, 46 sites which met the criteria of the Bill. The Scottish counterpart had identified another 17. The Bill should not have a simply cosmetic value.

It was sinister that the Treasury seemed to be getting a power of veto in areas of environmental sensitivity.

The period of adjustment from producing more and more to controlling production, would be painful, particularly for small farmers. So they should not be changing the financial result of the Agriculture Act, 1980, and the Advisory Service. Those needing advice most would possibly be those least able to pay for it under the new charging structure.

The £16.5 million to be saved was dwarfed more than 25 times over by the increased amount which the intervention board would have to spend. This was the economics of the madhouse. The Opposition had no idea what charges there would be in a pole and could not know what hardship would be caused.

Labour would not persist with these charges. It would undertake a major restructuring of ADAs and the research and development so that they would be able to fulfil more sensibly the serious long-term needs of agriculture.

Mr Robert Maclean (Caithness and Sutherland, SDP) moved an Alliance amendment that the Commons should not give a second reading to a Bill which provided the means seriously to cut ADAs.

He said the major issue of the Bill was the impact it would have on the agriculture industry for research and advice. One must question the timing - quite apart from the substance and size - of these cuts before the House this autumn when the industry was reeling from one of the worst harvests it had had to face over many years and the minister still unable to say whether he had really anything in his pocket on that, and was now producing some further hammer blow.

Mr Hector Mearns (Dumfriesshire, C) said he warmly welcomed the Government's decision to assist farmers to maintain and enhance conservation and look after scenic beauty in the countryside.

The Bill highlighted the Government's commitment to the environment, heritage and habitat and was a welcome sign for the countryside like him should welcome it.

Mr Thomas Torney (Bradford South, Lab) said the minister was acting with indecent haste to do the bidding of the Treasury - to cut and cut again, regardless of the effect on people.

The minister had promised there would be no charges for advice on conservation, rural diversification and animal welfare, but he knew whether a future minister, egged on by the Treasury would do what had been promised today?

Oil prospects very good

Prospects for the British oil industry in the North Sea were extremely good and, if reserves of oil were declining, this was because the oil was being used, Mr Alec Doxey, Secretary of State for Energy, said during questions in the Commons.

He said the latest estimate of remaining recoverable reserves of oil in the British sector of the North Sea was 3,225 million tonnes. This compared with 1,475 million tonnes in 1982, 1,375 million tonnes in 1983 and 1,300 million tonnes in 1984.

Financial services

Mr Michael Howard, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, in a Commons written reply, said the Government expected to introduce the Financial Services Bill, to establish a new regulatory framework for investor protection, next month.

Esprit seen as initiative deserving support

TECHNOLOGY

Despite undoubted progress the scale and influence of the European Strategic Programme for Research and Development in Information Technology (Esprit) must not be over-estimated, Lord Kinnear (Glasgow, C) said when he opened a House of Lords debate on the report of the European Communities Committee on the programme.

The 750 million European currency units allocated by the Commission over five years was compared with American and Japanese research, a very small contribution. However, in what the committee called the vital growth area of information technology, Esprit was seen as a valuable initiative deserving support.

In the committee's opinion improving the internal market was essential if Esprit was to achieve its full potential. This called for an exercise in political will by member states. There had been no such political will in the past decade.

He hoped the House would be told whether the Government, and in particular the Minister for Information Technology, was making any progress in changing the present unsatisfactory situation. The committee believed that greater efforts must be made to achieve effective co-ordination between Esprit and the corresponding national programmes.

Lord Bruce of Donington, for the Opposition, said he wondered what was meant by pre-competitive research and development. He always thought that competition was supposed to be the life-blood of the economy, that market forces were the most reliable way of ensuring that the benefits of people's intelligence and productivity were made available to mankind generally.

It appeared that there was some abrogation of this principle. Here they had a state of affairs in which, in the realm of information technology, the competition was supposed to be the life-blood of the economy, that market forces were the most reliable way of ensuring that the benefits of people's intelligence and productivity were made available to mankind generally.

Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran (L) said Esprit had been accused of suffering from the NIH syndrome - now invented term. The name could be said of many firms in the United Kingdom. The name could be said of many firms in the United Kingdom. The name could be said of many firms in the United Kingdom.

Arrangements should be made by the EEC for risk or venture capital to be available for innovative small firms in the Esprit programme.

Lord Battersby, in a maiden speech, said he welcomed the new programme since the suggestion that it be brought forward by two years, but he was concerned where the extra funding would come from. This would amount to 23 per cent for the United Kingdom out of the total of £449 million.

It will not be, I trust (he said), by reducing the current grants to universities or out of money already allocated for our national research.

Government moves over tin crisis

The British Government is to continue its efforts to persuade fellow member countries of the International Tin Council to meet their obligations so that a satisfactory solution to the present crisis in tin may be found, Mr Peter Channon, Minister for Trade, said in a written Commons reply.

Mr Alexander Fletcher (Edinburgh, Central, C) had called for urgent measures to the affairs which had led to the sudden suspension of the activities of the Buffer Stock Manager and of trading on the metals exchange.

Mr Channon said that the Government was naturally concerned to obtain the fullest possible information to assist in the aim of securing an orderly return to trading in tin. The Government and, as appropriate, the Bank of England, were holding talks with the various parties concerned and the International Tin Council had met the banks and the London Metal Exchange to discuss possible solutions to the crisis.

The ETC was to resume its meeting on December 2 and would remain in session until it reached a definitive solution to the current crisis.

A million have joined youth training scheme

Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Employment, defended the youth training scheme during questions in the House of Lords.

Lord Young of Grafton declared: It is a voluntary scheme since eligible young people choose whether or not to join. They are also entirely free to leave at any time.

It would seem unfair and unreasonable if a small number who unreasonably refuse a suitable place on the scheme should still receive full supplementary benefit immediately afterwards.

Lord Stoddart of Swinton (Lab): Between April 1984 and 1985 1,122 claims were disallowed due to young people not accepting a place on the YTS. Will the same rules apply to the new job counselling scheme?

Lord Young of Grafton: On Friday this week I go to meet the one millionth young person to join the YTS. That puts it in proportion.

Precise details of the counselling scheme have yet to be announced, but if an adult willfully refuses an opportunity to go to counselling to help them back into employment, we shall have to consider the position.

Pressure for abolition of standing charges

FUEL BILLS

Mr Alastair Goodlad, Under Secretary of State for Energy, said under pressure from MPs in the Commons to abolish standing charges for gas and electricity, particularly for the elderly, but he argued that the latest stage of a campaign to abolish the charges would lead to higher unit charges to customers.

Mr Harry Greenway (Edling North, C): Will Mr Goodlad say what can be done to achieve abolition of standing charges for pensioners? Taken over a year ago, standing charges represent a whole month's pension and are a considerable imposition. Is it not about time something was done about it?

Mr Goodlad replied that the charges represented the inevitable costs such as metering, accounting and emergency services. Revenue lost by abolishing charges would have to be recovered and so people such as the sick and the elderly would be penalized.

He added that the Government

targeted financial help to those in need through supplementary benefits.

Mr David Atkinson (Bournemouth East, C) said there should be a fairer scale which was related to the amount used.

Mr Goodlad said independent consultants had looked at this and concluded the charges fairly represented the costs.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP): This pressure for the abolition of standing charges will go on because they bear most heavily on the unemployed and old people. Will Mr Goodlad look at this matter again?

Mr Goodlad said the rebate scheme (known as the 10p rebate) was the most in need.

Mr Max Madden (Bradford West, Lab) said a bill consisting of bills which estimated the cost 20p of electricity a fortnight, understood that standing charges bore heaviest on those with the least and was not impressed with the consultants' report.

Local ombudsman: 2

Case still drags on after three years

The windows rattle in Mr Jim Shields's cottage when coaches leave the yard across the lane to ferry schoolchildren to villages near by. Mr Shields and the coaches are at the heart of an unfinished saga which seems likely to qualify for a long footnote in the history of the British ombudsman.

The first piece of evidence in the fat dossier in the cottage is an aerial photograph taken more than 20 years ago of the property where the coaches are parked. No vehicle is shown, but there is a small collection of white blobs in one corner.

Does the photograph show the site was once used not to park large vehicles, but as a chicken run? That question is at the heart of the controversy that has dogged Sibford Ferris through the dense thickets of planning law.

Sibford Ferris is one of a collection of villages between Hook Norton and the Vale of Red Horse in the remote corner of Oxfordshire. Mr and Mrs Shields, former teachers, have lived there for almost 30 years. They now live in the cottage by the corner at the foot of a steep hill, where the main road turns sharply.

The village is the sort of place

where councils use planning powers to curb commercial development. The question whether coaches should be allowed to park in the yard on the hillside has aroused powerful emotions in the village, parish council and Conservative-dominated Cherwell District Council.

Mr Shields complained to his local ombudsman more than three years ago about the way planning permission for the yard had been granted by the district council.

Mr H. B. McKenzie Johnston, the local ombudsman, announced two years ago that it was not for him to say whether the coaches should have been allowed to park there. But he was entitled to examine the council's background inquiries into the history of the site.

"I cannot conclude that they were adequate", he wrote. Consent for the coach park had been granted not with planning permission, but on a "certificate of established use", based on assertions that the site had been

used as a vehicle park for several years.

"I consider that the decision to grant it was taken with maladministration. Because this, and the evidence since made available, casts doubt upon whether it should ever have been granted, there is consequential injustice for the complainant."

Last year, Mr Shields became one of the few complainants to win a second report, on the grounds that the council had failed to right the injustice in the first. That was issued after Mr McKenzie Johnston took legal advice.

The issue was complicated further by an unrelated argument between the council and ombudsman about a different complaint.

Mr Shields felt aggrieved because he did not learn that the certificate had been granted to the coach firm for two years after it had been issued.

Planning law has since been tightened. Applications for public certificates have to be published so objectors have a chance to challenge them.

But the question of whether the Sibford Ferris coaches should be there has been overtaken. Mr McKenzie Johnston, the investigating ombudsman, has retired, and there is nothing his successor can do to force the council to abide by his findings.

Mr Shields has taken the initiative and steered the case in a new direction which highlights the way in which an ombudsman's investigation can fizzle out. Mr Shields has made a new complaint about the way in which the ombudsman's verdict on his first complaint was handled by the council.

The complaint has been accepted by the ombudsman's staff, although it is not certain that there will be a full investigation. "I am fighting for the ombudsman system as well as for myself," Mr Shields said.

The prospect of a further investigation means that comment about the case from all quarters is muted.

After more than 20 years the white blobs on the aerial photograph may yet have a part to play.

Tomorrow: Toothless watchdog?



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Information

Government aims to end right of jury trial for some minor offences

By Frances Gihb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government is to propose the abolition of trial by jury for certain minor offences in its White Paper on criminal justice to help ease crown court congestion.

It is expected to propose that in the case of certain offences, such as common assault and driving while disqualified, the defendant should no longer have the right to elect jury trial but must be tried by magistrates.

However it is not likely to propose trial by jury be ended in cases of theft, in spite of support for the measures by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, the Magistrates' Association, and the Justices' Clerks' Society.

The move is certain to provoke controversy after previous attempts to end jury trial for minor offences failed. Ten years ago, opposition MPs thwarted a Home Office attempt to end trial by jury in a "favourable recommendation" by a committee headed by Lord Justice James.

Pressure to end the right to elect jury trial for certain minor

offences has been mounting in the past 18 months as the crown court workload has grown.

In July last year the Lord Chief Justice recommended such a move, arguing that the costs in terms of money and time were enormous. In the London area, theft trials occupied about 14 per cent of total crown court time.

In May this year the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, said there were a number of offences, "relatively minor by any objective standard", which could, "perfectly well be dealt with at petty sessions". The crown court would be left to deal with more serious business.

The Government move comes against a background of unprecedented work for the crown court. Commitments for trial in the crown court rose by 50 per cent between 1979 and last year. In a high proportion of contested cases, acquittals were directed by the judge.

Those in favour of a redistribution of cases between crown and magistrates' courts argue

that minor cases of theft will also have to be included to make any difference to the workload.

Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of the Magistrates' Association, said yesterday: "The objection to removing jury trial for theft is that it involves dishonesty, and if therefore damages a person's reputation. But there are other offences involving dishonesty, such as travelling without a rail ticket, which carry no right to jury trial. And often they involve much larger sums of money than some of the offences of theft that come up to the crown court, such as stealing two cabbages and a beer mug."

Common assault is expected to be included after a recent ruling in which it was held that a person charged with common assault under section 42 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 had no right to elect trial by jury. The statutory offences of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and common assault created by section 47 of the 1861 Act were triable either in the crown or magistrates' courts, the judges said.



Mr Shiro Nagase (left) and Mr Katsutoshi Sakamaki, two Japanese Buddhist monks who appeared before Devizes magistrates yesterday, standing outside the court with the Canon of Southwark.

The two Buddhists were accused of entering the danger area of the Imber Army Ranges during a cruise missile exercise on Salisbury Plain.

Mr Nagase, aged 34, and Mr Sakamaki, aged 23, of Nipponzan, Willen, Milton Keynes, denied trespass contrary to Salisbury Plain

by-laws. The court was told that the monks were members of Nipponzan Myohoji, an order of Japanese Buddhists who have dedicated their lives to ridding the world of nuclear weapons. They were arrested 10 yards inside the area.

Robert Phillips, aged 34, of Lodge Gate, Milton Keynes, a management consultant employed by a City firm of chartered accountants, was charged with the same offence. He also pleaded not guilty.

The monks, dressed in saffron

robes, held their hands together as if in prayer during the hearing. Mr Brock Trethowan, for the prosecution, said the three were among a large number of demonstrators who invaded the area on July 21. They crossed the barbed wire fence already broken by those ahead. They were stopped and given a warning that they were trespassing.

They were not immediately arrested because the Ministry of Defence police had insufficient manpower at the time, but they were later arrested.

Du Pont to build £45m plant in Derry

The multinational chemical company Du Pont has selected Londonderry as the site for the European production of Kevlar, a new high-strength, low-weight engineering fibre that is being used increasingly in the aerospace, marine, automotive, and oil industries.

The Kevlar spinning plant, which will cost £45 million, is to be built at Du Pont's Maydown complex at Londonderry, where 1,350 people are employed producing synthetic rubbers and elastomeric fibre. The plant is expected to start production in late 1987, employing a further 300 people with 330 people being employed during its construction.

Kevlar, which is five times as strong as steel on a weight for weight basis, is thought to be the most important synthetic fibre development since nylon.

Its increasing use in high performance aircraft and space vehicles gives the fibre strategic importance and the Ulster authorities are clearly pleased with the choice of Maydown as the first production plant outside the United States.

The plant will spin about 7,000 tons of fibre annually from polymer supplied from the company's main facility at Richmond, Virginia, and its production will be sold on world markets.

Teachers likely to seek more talks

Unions in the 10-month-old dispute are to meet in London on December 5 in an attempt to break the latest deadlock.

The likelihood is that the unions will agree to re-open talks, at first on an informal basis, to be followed by a full meeting of both sides.

The dispute has been in stalemate since earlier this month when the unions voted against returning to the negotiating table after the college lecturers' union, sided with the largest union, the National Association of Teachers, to out-vote the other five unions.

But by December 5, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education will have lost its

eight towns it has added to its list for selective strike action this week. They are Forres, Bonnyrigg, Musselburgh, Campbeltown, and Tain.

University dons are to vote this week on whether to stage a one-day national protest on January 15 in protest at government cuts in higher education. If the Association of University Teachers' ballot is in favour, the action will be the first national strike of university lecturers.

Anti-racist teachers at a multicultural education unit in Bristol are calling for the dismissal of a colleague because he spoke in defence of Mr Ray Honeyford, the headmaster of Drummond Middle School, Bradford. Mr Jon Savery came under fire after he wrote an article for the right-wing *Salisbury Review* in which he said more teachers should have stood up for Mr Honeyford

Facilities for childless 'patchy'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Infertile couples are having to travel long distances and face enormous waits for treatment because National Health Service facilities for the infertile are so patchy and poor, Mr Frank Dobson, Labour's health spokesman, said yesterday.

"With health authorities having to struggle to keep cardiac units going or to keep children's hospitals open, pleas for help from the childless do not get much attention", Mr Dobson said, publishing a survey of NHS facilities for the childless.

Two regions, the North and

East Anglia, have neither a NHS test-tube baby clinic nor a centre for artificial insemination by donor (AID). Wales, Mersey, Yorkshire, Wessex, and South-West Thames have no test-tube clinics, and Mersey has no AID clinic, although there is a commercial one and one run by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service.

Of the 13 test-tube clinics, eight are provided within the NHS and five are run commercially where a typical course of treatment would cost about £2,000 to £3,000, Mr Dobson said.

Of the 47 centres for AID, 23 are run by the NHS, 17 are run for profit and seven by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service. A typical three month course of treatment in a commercial AID clinic costs about £250, he said. BPAS would charge £175.

But even women going to NHS clinics are often asked to pay up to £30 a cycle because health authorities are so short of money, with up to one in 10 couples infertile or sub-fertile tens of thousands of people were affected, he said.

Flat period ahead for car sales

By Teresa Poole

British car sales will remain relatively flat during the rest of this decade but production levels should show a gradual increase, according to the latest DRI World Automotive Forecast Report.

The number of British built cars should reach 975,000 this year, compared with 909,000 last year. This should then rise to more than a million in 1987, the report says. Sales will reach 1,770,000 this year and will remain at about that level until the end of the decade.

Japanese car manufacturers will increasingly seek joint projects with European car manufacturers to beat trade barriers.

The Japanese manufacturers' collective share of the Western Europe market is expected to rise to 10.7 per cent next year, and reach 11.7 per cent by 1991.

Firms not spending enough on training

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Companies were warned industrial training boards, yesterday that unless they increased their spending on training they could face re-imposition of industrial training boards, most of which were abolished by the Government four years ago.

Mr Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, delivered the warning, which is understood to have been underwritten by the promises which were made ministers, as part of an exhortation to industry to bear its share of training costs as part of industrial reconstruction.

Speaking to a training organizations' conference in London, Mr Nicholson said: "Critics who point to obvious failures in the voluntary training system, to broken promises and a dearth of action, will be difficult to resist when they call for know that training is an statutory arrangements." The Industrial Training Act production methods and 1981 abolished 16 of the 23 machinery."

Stateless threat to 10,000 in Hong Kong

By Pat Healy

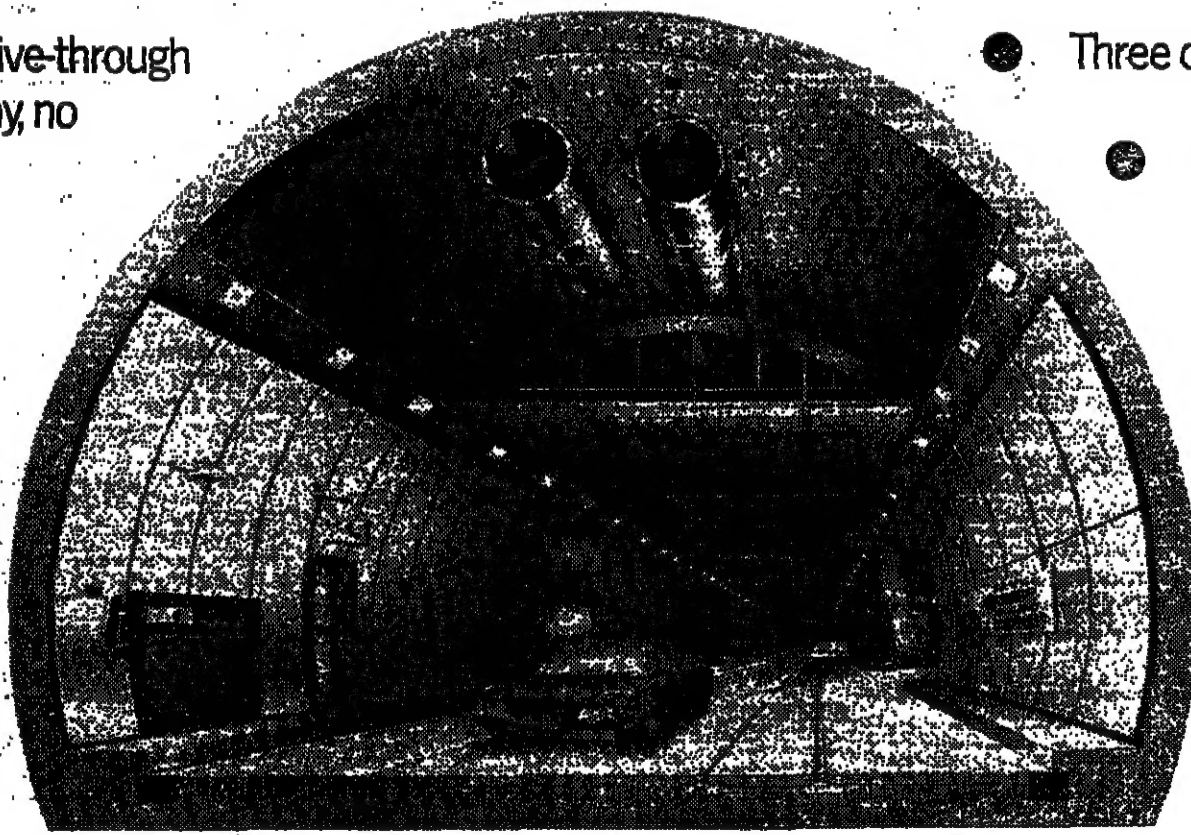
Nearly 10,000 British citizens in Hong Kong will be effectively stateless when the colony returns to China in 1997, according to the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. Their position has been disregarded in nationally proposals because of Britain's "pathological fear of non-white immigration".

The proposals, which are to be debated in the Hong Kong legislative council next week and in both Houses of Parliament in December, will give British citizens in the former colony who are not also Chinese nationals the status of British Overseas Citizenship. That, the JCWI said in a report yesterday, will give them no right of abode in either country, and the status cannot be passed on to children.

A Question of Belonging by Anne Owens (JCWI, 115 Old Street, London EC1V 9JR, £1).

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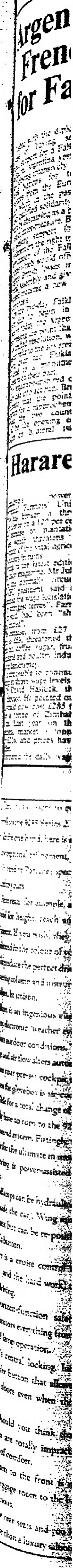


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**UNITED
TECHNOLOGIES**

Argentina tries to exploit French backing at UN for Falklands resolution

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Flushed with the diplomatic success of having secured French support for a Falklands resolution, Argentina yesterday was lobbying intensively at the United Nations for further defections from the European camp, which in the past has shown qualified solidarity with Britain by abstaining as a bloc.

As a counter-measure, Britain was seeking support for an amendment on the right to self-determination of the Falkland Islanders which would offset to a degree British losses in the General Assembly in 1982, European countries have always viewed the British position on Falklands negotiations as intransigent and have kept their outright support away from Argentina with great reluctance.

Faced with the prospect of a spectacular win by the Argentines in the Assembly, Britain has presented the self-determination amendments in order to save face. Yet the outcome of the voting on the amendment hung in the balance of the Assembly since a majority of the Assembly has found the Falklands a special colonial case where the right to self-determination does not apply.

Most countries feel that the islanders, though settlers for generations, are British and an anachronism, and there was a risk that Britain could overplay its hand in the Assembly.

Because negotiation to settle disputes is a basic tenet of the UN Charter, and a principle difficult to vote against, Britain has always counted the large number of abstentions as well as the negative votes as manifestations of support for its position, or as testimony of its power to influence and persuade. Last year the vote was 89-9 with 54 abstentions.

British diplomats were trying to drive home the argument that the present text was simply a variation on the same theme. In their minds the draft is a clever way of concealing Argentine intentions to enter into sovereignty negotiations of a predetermined nature without taking into account the wishes of the islanders.

Britain says that its decision to put forward only one amendment is a conciliatory gesture to the Argentines, while the Argentines see it as a deliberate provocation.

Harare crisis over farm pay

From Jan Raath, Harare

Zimbabwe's powerful Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) has broken a three-month silence on a 120 per cent wage increase to plantation workers which threatens to leave much of the vital agricultural industry in ruins.

Writing in the latest edition of the union magazine, Mr John Laurie, the normally circumspect CFU president, said he condemned the wage legislation "in the strongest terms". Farmers, he said, had been "shockingly treated".

The increase, from £27 a month to £59, threatened the number, tea, coffee, sugar, fruit, horticultural and poultry industries with bankruptcy.

"It is impossible to continue operating at those wage levels," said Mr David Hasluck, the CFU's director. He pointed out that it would now cost £285 to produce a tonne of Zimbabwean tea. Last year on the international market a tonne fetched £216, and prices have since fallen.

He compared the daily wage for tea-pickers in Zimbabwe, now set at £2.42, with those in India, who receive 73p per day.

The agro-industry annually earns £50 million from exports. The CFU has estimated the new wages will cost farmers an extra £15 million a year.

The legislation had created a breakdown in law and order on plantations all over the country, Mr Laurie said, referring to the wave of strikes, demonstrations, lockouts and real and threatened violence to farm managers and their families that have continued for two months.

In February, the Zimbabwe Cabinet approved a 15 per cent wage increase. But in August, Dr Frederick Shava, the Minister of Labour, sent a deputy minister to inform stunned CFU members that the annual award would be cut to 10 per cent.

There had been no consultation with the union, and, said Dr Shava, did not raise the issue at any of the weekly Cabinet meetings.

Dr Shava, who is on a visit to London, said his ministry would permit farmers to apply for exemptions if they provided audited accounts of their inability to afford the new wage.

The CFU rapidly circulated documents to farmers on which to apply for exemptions, but once completed they were rejected by the Ministry because they had been submitted by the union. The ministry is now considering a set of about 350 new applications, individually submitted.

The first one to receive an exemption was Southdown Holdings, a large coffee estate in the south-eastern area of Chipinge. But the ministry's written reply two weeks ago told the owners that they were being granted a reduction of only £10. The owners say they cannot afford wages at this level.

Early this month Mr Robin Fennel, the owner of the 250-acre Crocodile Creek coffee estate, also in Chipinge, paid off his labour, collected his equipment and went into bankruptcy.

Stars back Aids gala

The actress Elizabeth Taylor being welcomed by French singer Line Renaud to Paris for a gala soirée in support of Aids research.

Miss Taylor, chairman of the American Foundation for Aids Research, was attending last night the 2,000-franc-a-plate event at the Paradis Latin, a left bank nightclub.

The evening's entertainment, hosted by Bernard Pivot, one of French television's most popular entertainers, featured performances by French singers Mireille Mathieu, Dalida, Annie Cordy, Serge Lama and America's Eartha Kitt, as well as comedy sketches by France's top impersonator, Thierry Lherault.

UK jet sale to India is clinched

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

A sales team from British Aerospace was last night finally able to celebrate the sale of £140 million of Sea Harrier jump jets and Sea Eagle missiles to the Indian Navy.

The deal, signed yesterday by ministry officials, will be announced officially in the Indian Parliament today. It has taken almost three years to complete negotiations on the contract, which began as a six-month option following India's earlier purchase of eight planes to replace its squadron of Sea Hawks.

The new deal is for 10 Harriers, plus one specially developed two-seater trainer.

Energy crisis stunts economic growth

Power cuts as Moscow slows down the flow of oil

In the second of three articles on the impact of the energy crisis in East bloc countries, ROGER BOYES, East Europe Correspondent, analyses the difficulties facing Bulgaria.

"No panic," said a Bulgarian official recently, as the lights flickered for the third time, "just good house-keeping."

The Bulgarian leadership understood the implications of last winter better than most of its neighbours. In July both the government and the Sofia city administration held special meetings to ginger up repair work on generators and to improve the supply of spare parts for power stations. Distribution of coal and briquettes is to be improved. Last month the wages of miners and other energy-sector workers were increased by between 15 and 20 per cent. New equipment has found its way to surface workers and efficient miners are to be rewarded with better apartments. Whether this will translate into better energy supplies remains to be seen.

But the authorities can at least batten down demand. Electricity prices have risen by 41 per cent in ordinary households and by 58 per cent for industry.

The price of petrol, already among the highest in Europe, went up 35 per cent to 1.20 leva (about £1) a litre in September. As in Romania, a private car has become something to be used on special occasions.

Yet all this is not enough. With the cold still bearable in Sofia, there are already power cuts of two hours or more. A typical experience: arriving at a petrol station in the suburbs to find the pumps hooded and a solitary cashier sitting in candlelight as if praying for the soul of a relative.

The authorities talk endlessly of the weather, like the mythical British bus queue. Above all, they say, the energy problems stem from a summer drought in the Balkans which dried up water stored behind dams.

But this is a convenient scapegoat: after all, hydro-electricity accounts for only 20 per cent of Bulgarian electricity needs.

The real, unmentionable, energy problem is rooted in Soviet oil. The Soviet Union supplies all Bulgaria's oil, but it is not supplying enough, and it wants better-quality goods as payment.

The Soviet Ambassador to Sofia, Mr Leonid Grekov, has even gone on record as saying that the Bulgarians should channel high-quality goods to Moscow - rather, it was implied, than reserving them for the lucrative Western markets - and that Bulgarian workers should stop taking time off work to tend their private allotments.

Moscow is in a kind of trade bondage with its allies: it is exploited like a colonial power. Cheap oil and gas are funnelled to the Warsaw Pact countries and in return they get sub-standard shoes and cherry jam with pipes.

Energy then is at the heart of the decline in the Bulgarian economy. It will be lucky to achieve 1.4 per cent growth this year, after healthy increases of 4 per cent or more over the past three years.

The harshness of the winter will determine whether this is to be a temporary hiccup, or whether Bulgaria will have to become a slow-growth big borrower to pay the Soviet price for keeping warm and oiling the wheels of industry.

The Soviet leadership wants to change this and the strain is being felt throughout East Europe, most of all during winter. The Hungarians calculate that in 1972 it was possible to pay for a million tonnes of Soviet oil with 800 Ikarus buses. Now the same quantity costs them 4,000 buses. Oil prices are going up, and quantities falling.

Bulgaria has been hit badly. It has its own petro-chemical industry, based on Soviet oil, and its profits have been correspondingly eroded.

Electricity exports to Turkey have had to be reduced, and Bulgaria is becoming a significant importer of coal from Britain and the U.S. To finance this and large grain imports to compensate for a bad harvest, Bulgaria is starting to borrow more from the West: a \$200 million (£130 million) loan from a group led by the National Westminster Bank has been followed by a \$200 million loan from Japan and there are plans for another \$200 million from West German banks.

Tomorrow: Poland

Eanes party pins hope on ex-Socialist

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

Portugal's Democratic Renewal Party, made up of followers of President Eanes, has chosen a former Socialist, Senhor Francisco Salgado Zenha, as its candidate in the January presidential elections.

Until recently Senhor Zenha, a lawyer, was considered the number two man in the Socialist Party, but serious differences with Dr Mario Soares, the party leader and his life-long friend and colleague, led him to resign.

President Eanes has already publicly endorsed Senhor Zenha as a candidate. His new party, which polled a surprising

19 per cent in last month's parliamentary elections, has been divided over its choice of a presidential candidate.

Some members support the left-wing former prime minister, (Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo). Party opposition caused President Eanes's first choice, Lieutenant-Colonel Costa Brás, to withdraw as a candidate.

Observers believe Senhor Zenha may have a chance of winning if he can come second in the first round of voting, in which there are three other main candidates: Dr Pintasilgo, who has strong left-wing support; Dr Diogo Freitas do

Amaral, who has Social Democrat support, and Dr Soares.

The communists have put up a candidate, but are expected to encourage their members to vote for Senhor Zenha.

With the left-wing vote divided among three candidates, Dr Freitas do Amaral is expected to win the first round. A recent poll gives him with 38.7 per cent; Dr Pintasilgo 22.8 per cent; Senhor Zenha 16.3 per cent; and Dr Soares 8.3 per cent.

However, the other main candidate who goes through to the second round is expected to defeat Dr Freitas do Amaral.

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On the one hand, here is a luxury car of quite exceptional refinement. A car that's built by hand to Porsche's specification, then tailored to yours.

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To produce the perfect driving position, the steering column and instrument binnacle adjust in unison.

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While for a total change of atmosphere, you only have to turn to the 928's computerised sound system. Fixingly, the ultimate in music for the ultimate in movement.

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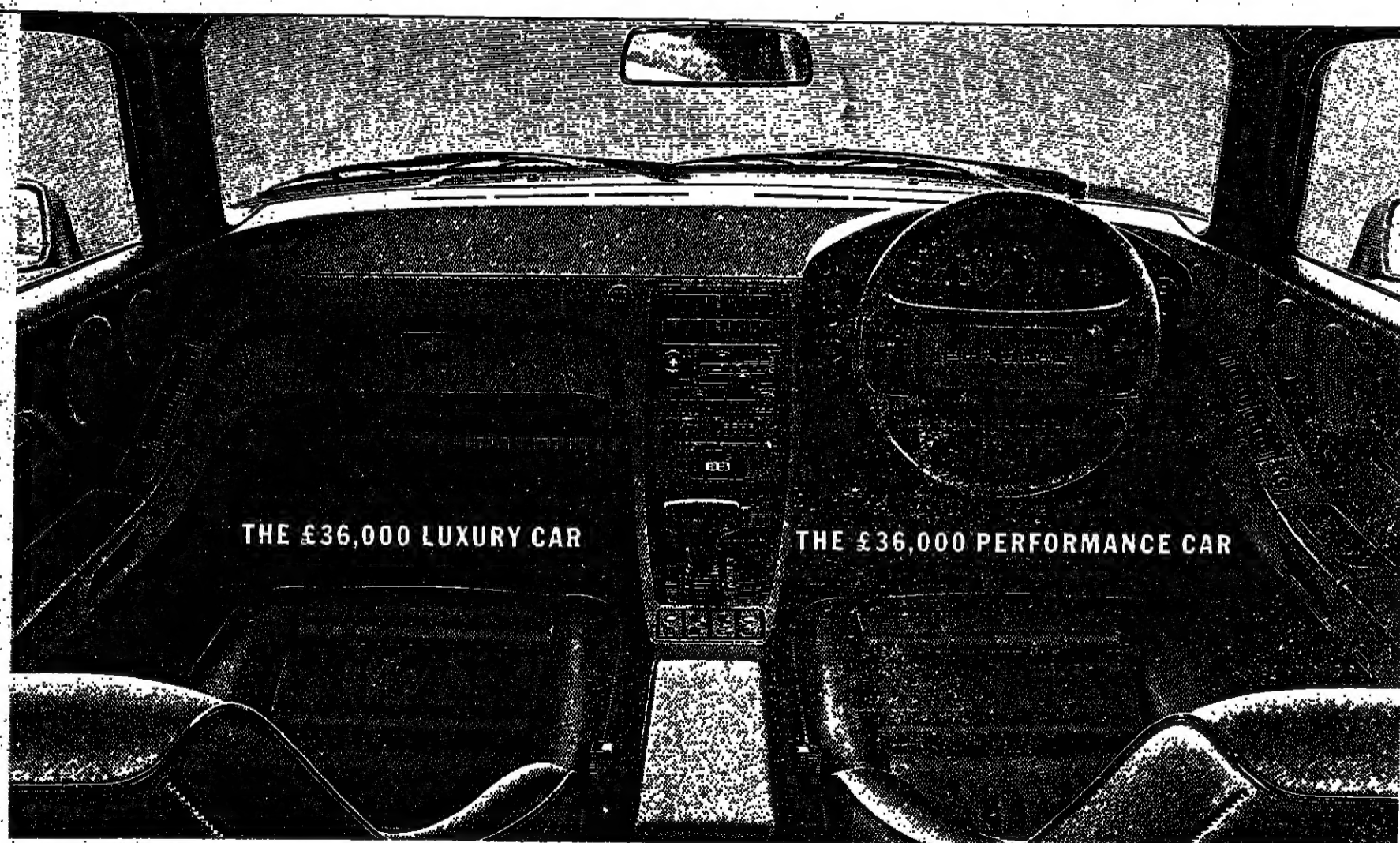
A fourteen-function safety warning system monitors everything from brake pad wear to tail lamp operation.

There's central locking. Including an anti-intruder button that allows you to secure all doors even when the car is in motion.

And should you think that Porsche proportions are totally impractical, some final words of comfort.

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Fold the rear seats and you have more storage space than a luxury saloon.



On the performance side, the 928S Series 2 is astonishingly flexible. Smooth and imperturbable around town. Fast (never furious) on the open road.

With 4-speed automatic transmission, the 928 produces rather impressive Factory Test figures: 0-62.5 mph (0-100 km/h) in 6.7 seconds. Top speed: 156 mph. The 5-speed manual is marginally swifter.

And as quickly as it starts, the 928 stops. It has one of the safest braking systems yet devised.

Second generation ABS cadence braking (allied to four piston, fixed caliper ventilated disc brakes) means that the 928 driver can stop rapidly and steer at the same time.

Handling is superbly controlled too, of course.

Thanks firstly to the Transaxle drive-line (engine fore, gearbox aft) which provides near-perfect weight distribution.

And secondly, to the Porsche-patented Weissach rear axle. An innovation which counteracts a car's natural tendency to break away on tight corners.

Fuel performance? Respectably economical to quote 'Motor'.

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PORSCHE BUILDING ON ACHIEVEMENT

The Malta hijack • Victims' ordeal • Athens was warned • Britain's support

Boeing passengers were lined-up for killing after mid-air gun battle

From Colin Hughes, Valetta

As the hijacking of Saturday night's EgyptAir flight from Athens to Cairo turned into 24 hours of terror, the five hijackers mixed ruthless indifference to life with bizarre incompetence.

Of the five people shot in the waiting game, at least three will survive. Some women were, apparently at random, freed, while all the children on board were slaughtered in the grisly denouement on Sunday night.

Detailed accounts from survivors began yesterday to build the first picture of the hijack. The passengers who boarded the Boeing 737 to take off at 8pm Malta time were a varied crowd: they included two Israeli kibbutz girls taking a cheap route to the Bangkok trail, and a troupe of Filipino girls returning home to Manila from Cyprus.

Ten minutes after take-off, the smartly dressed hijackers, who had presented themselves in Athens as either Palestinian or Egyptian, but who were also reported to have been carrying Moroccan passports, stood up.

Their leader strode into the cockpit with a handgun and the plane to land and blacked out the aisle boarding stairs.

The pilot was immediately ordered to head for Malta and as he changed course the remaining hijackers started to force the passengers to stand, one by one and to present their passports.

The four armed Egyptian security guards on the jet stood up and a hijacker was shot dead. A brief but fierce gun battle followed, ending with two stewardesses hit and one security guard badly wounded. A bullet had struck him in the leg, bounced off his shoulder bone and landed in his jacket pocket.

The other three guards were ordered to lie in the aisle while the grim line-up continued. Bullets had ripped through the fuselage and cabin pressure fell, forcing the pilot to descend.

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Maltese troops carry the body of a passenger killed when the 737 was stormed.

the Israeli, was brought to the doorway. "I was shouting at them not to shoot and struggling to get away," she said yesterday. "He stood there with the gun pointing at my head from a metre away and as he went to shoot I turned and fell."

The bullet passed through her ear at point-blank range and embedded itself below her eye, but she was sitting up in her hospital bed yesterday.

Mr Patrick Scott-Baker, an American, was pushed to the floor and a shot aimed at his head, but the bullet passed through his neck. He feigned dead and was shoved down the

steps on to the tarmac.

Then the security guard who was hit in the shoot-out was pushed from the plane.

By now the Maltese authorities, having witnessed the last body at 2.18 am on Sunday morning, had decided they would not succumb to the terrorists, but negotiated a medical team to collect what were a pile of corpses.

As threats of a fifth shooting came from the leading hijacker the captain insisted repeatedly to the control tower: "He is serious. I will hold you responsible for any more killings."

Then, at 3.05 am, the radio talking stopped and the four towers of floodlights which overlooked the tarmac where the plane was parked were extinguished.

At 9.20 the Egyptian commando blew out an entrance to the cargo hold and a door over the starboard wing to attempt their assault.

Only minutes later Maltese television was carrying an urgent demand for all doctors, nurses and medical staff off duty or on leave to report immediately to St Luke's: they had a death toll of 60 and 30 injured to deal with.

Leading article, page 17

Militias enforce truce in Beirut

Beirut - A tense cease-fire took hold in west Beirut yesterday after five days of heavy fighting between rival Shia Muslim and Druse militias in which 68 people were killed and nearly 300 others wounded (Our Correspondent writes).

The truce was seen to be effective, a measure of the militia leaders' determination to end the fighting even if it meant shooting their own men. One Druse militia commander provided a deadly demonstration of that determination when he shot dead one of his own men who refused to stop firing at positions held by the Shia Amal militia.

US hostage, page 16

Göring's yacht sold for £73,000

Bonn - A luxury yacht once owned by Hermann Göring and bought by a West German journalist involved in the Hitler diary case was auctioned for £73,000 (A Correspondent writes).

It was put up for competitive sale in Hamburg at the demand of a bank creditor of Gerd Heidemann, aged 53, the former Stern magazine reporter, who is serving four years and eight months in prison for the diaries fraud.

Honduran count

Tegucigalpa (AP) - The ruling Liberal Party and Señor Oscar Mejía Arelano, one of its four candidates for President, led its traditional rival, the Nationalist Party, with 20 per cent of the votes counted, in the Honduran general election. Señor Mejía Arelano is the choice of outgoing President Somoza Cordeiro.

Too few maids

Peking (Reuters) - A shortage of housemaids has given affluent residents here something new to complain about. The China Daily said there were 36,000 housemaids in Peking, more than three times the number 20 years ago but still well short of the 90,000 needed.

Crew demoted

Tokyo (Reuters) - Japan Air Lines demoted the cockpit crew of a jumbo jet which strayed towards Soviet air space last month, with the captain reduced to co-pilot status for four months and the co-pilot to undergo two months' retraining.

Basque bomb

Madrid - A parked car loaded with explosives blew up as a convoy of Spanish Navy vehicles was passing in the Basque city of San Sebastian, killing two seamen.

Sikh endorsed

Chandigarh (Reuters) - A leadership crisis in Punjab ended with the head of the main Sikh political party, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, winning a vote of confidence.

Scared to vote

Lima (Reuters) - Threats of violence from Maoist guerrillas reduced the turnout in mayoral elections in a tenth of Peru's towns, election officials said.

Rodent round-up

Lisbon (Reuters) - The city council here launched a campaign to rid the capital of rats and mice which are estimated to outnumber the two million citizens by four to one.

Correction

A report from Bogotá, published on November 19, which stated that the Nicaraguan authorities had refused permission for two British helicopters to overfly Nicaragua or land there for refuelling, was incorrect. The British Embassy in Managua has pointed out that Nicaragua gave full cooperation, allowing the helicopters to land and refuel at Managua airport before continuing their journey to Colombia.

Link with Frankfurt car-bomb suspected

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The Malta hijack and the weekend bombing of a US military shopping centre in Frankfurt may both have been the work of terrorist groups run by Abu Nidal, the Palestinian extremist, according to an initial assessment of the incidents in London.

Details of the attacks have been circulated to anti-terrorist experts in a number of European capitals. Factors in both incidents are said to suggest the influence of Abu Nidal.

During preparations for the Frankfurt bombing the BMW car which was used was bought by a "Moroccan-looking man" who spoke bad German, Abu Nidal is reported to have pledged recently to attack NATO targets and there has long been antipathy to the Americans.

The fact that the hijackers who died in Malta included at least one Syrian or Syrian passport-holder is also said to point to Abu Nidal. Syria has provided a base for him in the past.

Abu Nidal has earned a fearsome reputation in recent years as leader of an extreme

Tip-off put Athens on alert

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Athens airport was placed on increased security 24 hours before the hijacking of the Egyptian airliner, after a tip-off from the Americans. According to Greek officials, this minimizes, if not eliminates, the possibility that the hijackers' weapons were smuggled on board through Athens airport.

Mr George Papadimitropoulos, the Athens airport commander, revealed to The Times that on Friday he had received from the US Federal Aviation Agency a warning of an impending hijack attempt in late November. No country and no particular airport were cited.

"We stepped up all security measures at once," he said. "Seeing that this is the off-season, traffic was minimal on Saturday. Our personnel had been trained intensively. One week before we had been inspected by the Federal Aviation Agency. And it just happened that the Egyptian airline had an extra baggage

check before passengers boarded the plane. We were in top form and ready."

The airport commander said he could not believe that such bulky weapons as at least three hand grenades could have slipped through this tight security net. He stopped short of suggesting that they had been hidden on board for the hijackers to find.

However, Mr Theodoros Tsouras, the Minister of State for Public Order, also rejecting the view that the weapons had passed through Athens, said he did not rule out that some Cairo accomplice of the hijackers had secreted them on board the plane.

Western diplomats in Athens, who have been monitoring the improved security measures at Athens airport, agreed that the precautions there were "more than satisfactory". One ambassador who recounted with relief how he is always stopped by security guards when he tries to enter the "clean" areas of

and would be ready by the end of the year. "In the meantime," he added, "we are being protected by 250 Greek Air Force troops who use armoured patrol cars."

The Athens airport commander said a C130 military transport plane had been dispatched to Malta to fetch the Greek passengers of the hijacked plane and the bodies of those killed. Reports said that all but five of the 17 Greeks on board, all seamen on their way to ports of embarkation, had been killed.

The Greek Government so far has refrained from commenting on the events at Valetta airport, arguing it wants to have all the facts to judge whether the assault by Egyptian troops was needed or not. But a government statement criticized the Maltese Government for failing to consult Athens before the attack, considering the large numbers of Greek passengers involved.

Airlines mission to check security at Cairo airport

By Our Foreign Staff

An International Air Transport Association (IATA) mission will travel to Cairo today to study airport security conditions. A spokesman said a similar mission was also possible to Athens, but this would require prior Greek Government approval.

He said the arms used in the weekend hijack could have been put on board in Cairo. "It cannot be absolutely sure the passengers had arms with them on embarkation at Athens."

The Cairo mission had been envisaged for several weeks, but was made urgent by the latest hijack. The spokesman declined to say if Cairo airport was on any late blacklist of "dangerous" airports.

IATA, which represents the majority of international air-

lines, sent inspectors to Athens airport in June after the hijack of a US Trans World Airlines jet. Later security measures by Greek authorities were judged satisfactory by IATA and the US Federal Aviation Authority.

Meanwhile the British Airline Pilots Association said Security at Athens airport was now tight and it would be "surprising" if weapons used in the hijack were smuggled through there.

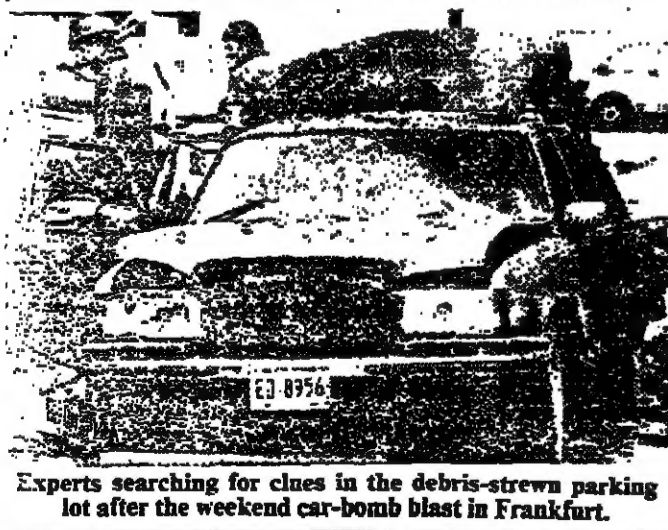
Mr Freddie Yetman, the organization's technical secretary, said the association had been closely monitoring the situation since the TWA hijack in June and was generally satisfied with arrangements at the Greek capital.

"At the time of the TWA incident we reacted angrily

about security at Athens. We complained through our international body and wrote to the British airlines asking what they intended to do about it. We have found since that time that security has been considerably tightened and, until today, we have been satisfied with these improvements."

He said the association was surprised to hear that Athens was being blamed and would have to wait for the full facts before condemning security at the airport. Cairo was not considered to be a "problem airport" with security there being "quite good", he said.

The French Airline Pilots Association declared yesterday that they were opposed to the presence of armed guards on board passenger aircraft. Their



Experts searching for clues in the debris-strewn parking lot after the weekend car-bomb blast in Frankfurt.

Pretoria dialogue group named

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, yesterday announced that final agreement had been reached on the composition of the group of seven eminent persons which the Commonwealth's Nassau summit decided to establish to encourage a dialogue between the South African Government and representative black leaders towards ending apartheid.

After the refusal of Mr Pierre Trudeau, the former Canadian Prime Minister, to join the group, Mr Ramphal revealed that Canada's nominee on the committee will be the Most Rev Edward Scott, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

The other six members of the group are: Mr Malcolm Fraser, former Prime Minister of Australia; General Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria; Lord Barber, former Minister of Health and chairman of the Conservative Party; Dame Nita Barrow, a president

Extra day for European talks on refugee crisis

From Christopher Mosley, Stockholm

Mr Paul Harting, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, left Sweden yesterday without comment after a secret seven-nation meeting to discuss the mounting refugee crisis in Europe.

Members of Mr Harting's staff stayed in Stockholm and the meeting was unexpectedly extended until today.

It is understood that Mr Harting encountered considerable resistance to his pleas for less restrictive immigration policies from the seven countries involved: Britain, West Germany, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands.

Mr Harting was told that the UN should work to stem the flood of refugees from the Middle East, Africa and the Indian sub-continent, which is expected to rise to 150,000 this year.

US holds another spy suspect

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A former communications specialist with the United States National Security Agency (NSA), a Pentagon group specializing in high-tech eavesdropping and code-breaking, was arrested yesterday and accused of conspiracy to pass secrets to the Soviet Union. He was the fourth alleged spy to be arrested by the US in five days.

Reagan Administration officials said he had been identified by Mr Vitaly Yurchenko, the Soviet intelligence officer who allegedly defected to the West in the summer but who returned to Moscow early this month after saying he had been kidnapped and drugged by US intelligence officers.

The Administration officials said that at least three former US intelligence officers had been named as spies by Mr Yurchenko.

Ronald William Pelton, aged 44, from Washington DC, was arrested at a hotel in Annapolis, Maryland, and charged with

US holds another spy suspect

violating Federal law concerning the gathering of defence information for a foreign government. The FBI said that Mr Pelton, now a hotel salesman, had been employed as a communications specialist by the NSA from 1965 to 1979.

Mr Pelton is alleged to have gone to the Soviet Embassy in Washington for the first time in 1980 and to have been paid about \$35,000 (£24,000) since then for providing US defence secrets, according to Administration officials.

The current spate of arrests started on Thursday, when Jonathan Pollard, a civilian analyst for the US Navy, was arrested and charged with selling classified military documents to a foreign government, believed to be Israel. Ann Henderson-Pollard, aged 25, his wife, was charged the following day with gathering or delivering defence information.

The recent spate of arrests is attributed to increased efforts by the CIA and the FBI rather than to any mysterious surge in spying activities.

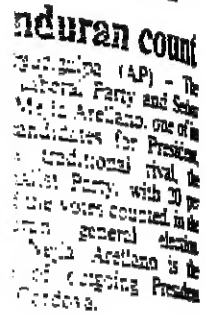
Larry Wu-Tai Chin, aged 63, a former CIA intelligence analyst, was charged on Friday with selling US secrets to China.



Vitaly Yurchenko: tip-off to Americans.

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Lange dashes hopes of early release for jailed French agents

From Richard Long, Wellington

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, yesterday dashed French hopes of an early return for their imprisoned agents, saying they would not be deported during the term of his Government, which would continue until September, 1987.

His comments were a blow for the agents, who were jailed last week for 10 years on manslaughter charges and who appeared in court again yesterday on charges of using false passports. It was also a blow for the French Government, which had hoped that, even if the pair did not get released by Christmas, they might return before the elections next March.

Captain Dominique Prieur, aged 36, and Major Alain Mafart, aged 35, were convicted and remanded in custody under the provisions of the Immigration Act when they appeared in court in Auckland again yesterday on charges of entering the country on false Swiss passports under the names of Alain and Sophie Turange. Major Mafart admitted three passport-related charges and Captain Prieur admitted two. Last week they were jailed for manslaughter for their part in the sabotage of the Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior and the death of a crew member, Fernando Pereira.

At a press conference in

Another nuclear test at Mururoa atoll

France exploded a nuclear device at its Mururoa atoll test ground in the South Pacific yesterday, New Zealand seismologists said in Wellington (AP reports). The blast, with an estimated yield of seven kilotons, was the seventh this year.

Wellington after the sentencing. Mr Lange hinted that there were two reasons for the government not acting to deport the agents, as it has the power to do under the Criminal Justice Act. He indicated that it would be politically untenable for the Government to take the step and that it would also endanger the public attitude to the courts.

One sure method of assisting the opposition National Party to gain seats in the next election would be pictures of the two agents sunning themselves in the south of France in September, 1987, Mr Lange said. "You have asked me if in the life of this government, will they be deported? The answer to that is No."

Mr Lange also asked how the public would view a deportation move. "What do you say to a young person in New Zealand who has been subjected to the sanction of the court for some minor act, told to

conform to the law and lead an upright life and then to see a Government flogging off two prisoners - you cannot do that."

Deportation would be seen as an act of selling the two prisoners. "It would be wrong for any respect we had in the World Community for us to be seen doing it," he said.

As for the opposition Coalition call in France for President Mitterrand to use trade sanctions to block New Zealand produce entering the European Community's market, Mr Lange said: "That to me is not the statement of a person extolling the great virtues of France - it is the bully-boy approach to international life."

Such an approach would be outrageous and unlikely. Captain Prieur is reported to have cried into her pillow in prison in Auckland the night after the sentencing. Major Mafart said he had confidence in the French Government's ability to obtain his release.

● PARIS: The French Prime Minister, M Laurent Fabius, appeared untroubled by Mr Lange's statement that the two French agents would not be deported (Susan MacDonald reports).

The judicial phase has ended," he said "and a government-to-government phase now begins. We will start making the necessary contacts in line with our objective, which is that these French officers should be returned to France."

Electoral comeback for Spanish centre

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Most commentators in Spain agreed yesterday that the real winner of the regional elections in Galicia was the organization which came in third, the Galician Coalition, and that its performance may have repercussions on a national scale.

Both main parties, the conservative Popular Coalition and the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), won more seats than in the previous Galician elections in 1981, yet for each it was less than a satisfactory showing.

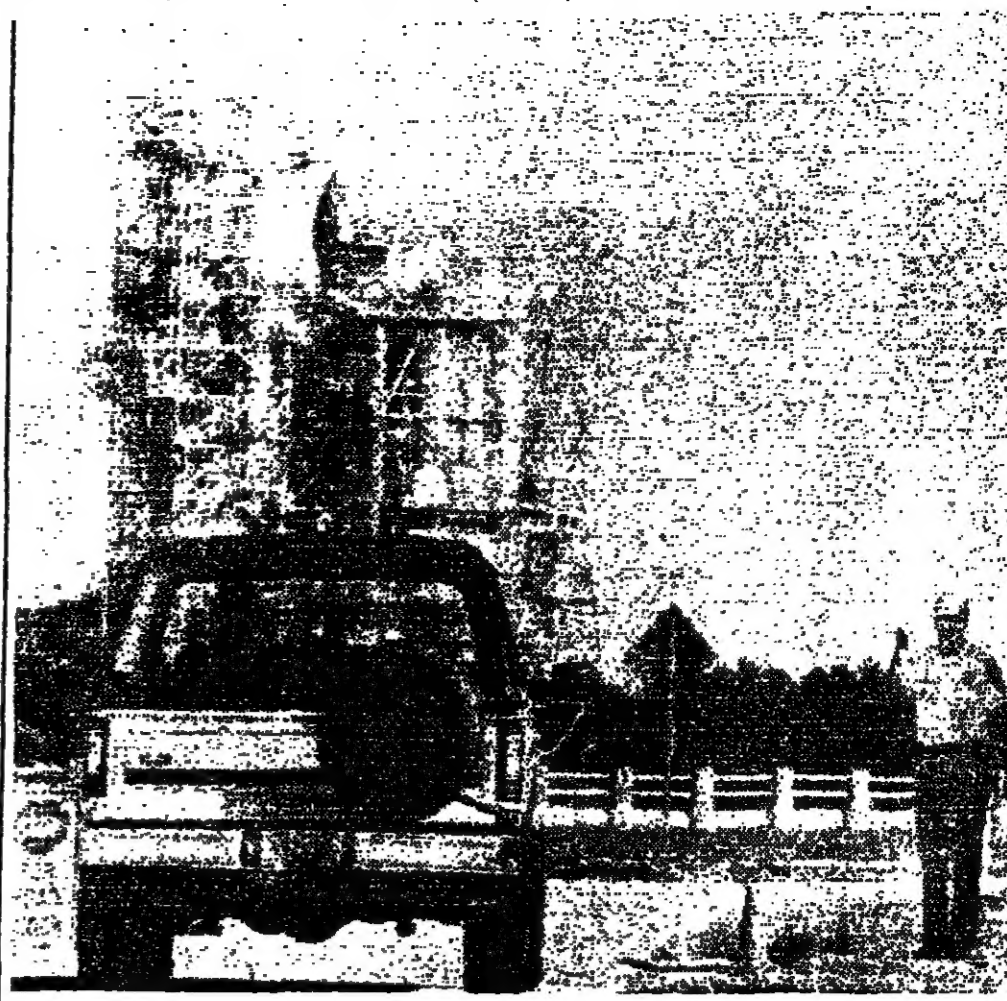
The Popular Coalition, led by the former Franco minister and former Ambassador to London, Señor Manuel Fraga, increased its number of seats in the 71-seat regional parliament from 26 to 34, with 99 per cent of the votes counted, but it failed to achieve Señor Fraga's goal of winning a majority. The Socialists, in power nationally but facing a general election not later than next autumn, increased their number of seats in the regional parliament from 16 to 25, but got a smaller percentage of the Galician vote than they did in the 1982 general election which installed them in government in Madrid.

The Galician Coalition, a regionally oriented party making its first appearance in elections, captured 11 seats, making it the deciding factor for passage of any legislation. It is part of a loose alliance of regional parties in various parts of the country put together by a Catalan moderate, Señor Miquel Roca.

His achievement in Galicia is looked upon here as a resurgence of the political centre, after the disintegration of the Centre Democratic Union in 1981.

The former Prime Minister, Señor Adolfo Suárez, failed to win a single seat for his Social Democratic Centre Party.

Mr Mounier, aged 41, has worked as a reporter, producer and senior executive with the BBC, Thames Television and London Weekend Television.



Shuttle set for launch

A security guard at Cape Canaveral in Florida waves on a car near the launch pad of the US space shuttle Atlantis, due to be launched tonight on a week-long mission to test space station construction techniques and launch three communications satellites.

Astronauts Jerry Ross and Sherwood Spring will work outside the spacecraft to test techniques for building a proposed \$11 billion (£7.6 billion) space station.

The crew of seven, including the first Mexican astronaut will also deploy three communications satellites.

Soviet tirade mars Budapest good will

From Richard Bassett, Budapest

Amid bitter accusations from the Soviet Union that the United States practised "cultural and physical genocide", the European Cultural Forum was expected to end yesterday without producing a substantive concluding document.

The forum, part of the conference on security and co-operation in Europe, provides for a unanimous final resolution, but the vehemence of the Soviet attack, delivered at a hastily called press conference, shattered the atmosphere of goodwill which had largely prevailed, despite some acerbic exchanges during the six weeks of talks.

Employing rhetoric redolent of the Cold War, the Soviet Deputy Minister of Culture, Mr Goryunov, told Western journalists that the US had utter contempt for the fate of every single individual. Its attitude to the cultural forum had "torpedoed" the chance of a useful final document ever seeing the light of day.

Mr Ivanov's stern rebukes were not limited to the US. Like a headmaster delivering bad news, he listed a long list of other delegations which he said

had conspired with America to "kill" the final document.

In this final Britain came almost too late, followed closely by Switzerland. Norway also ranked high.

Western delegates expressed surprise at the outburst but had been prepared for the East to block any final document after negotiations into the early hours had left both sides deadlocked.

The Soviet Union's intransigence will severely disappoint several Eastern delegations, notably Poland and Hungary, for whom a concluding document is of considerable value.

The West, for its part, can generally live without one, preferring implementation rather than drafting, but several Western delegates feared that the European security conference process would prove futile if the Russians continued to ignore the wishes of minor powers on both sides.

Others, however, were more optimistic, including Mr Norman St John-Stevas, head of the British delegation, who, quoting the Duke of Wellington, observed in his concluding speech that success in battle required "hard pounding".

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Haiti:

William Josma

By Caroline Moorehead

William Josma, a 35-year-old engineer, "disappeared" early in 1982 while being held in the Military Hospital of Port-au-Prince. Reports have reached friends that he has been seen in the National Penitentiary, but they have never been confirmed. The Government of Haiti denies that Mr Josma is in detention at all.

On April 3 or 4, 1981, security forces arrested Mr Josma who was then working at the Institut National de la Formation Professionnelle. He had been a candidate in the 1979 legislative elections but was believed to have withdrawn his candidacy when government pressure was put on him.

After his arrest he is thought to have been held at the Dessalines military barracks, where political suspects are often taken for initial interrogation, sometimes known to be conducted under torture. By the end of April he had been transferred to the National Penitentiary, where he was not allowed to receive visitors.

It was from the National Penitentiary that Mr Josma is believed to have been moved to the Military Hospital, apparently because of health problems. And it was from the hospital, after only ten months in detention, that he "disappeared".



Mr Josma "disappeared" from military hospital

Dingo case mother's plea refused

Sydney - An application for the release of Mrs Lindy Chamberlain, who is serving a life sentence for the murder of the baby daughter she maintains was taken from her by a wild dog, has been rejected by the Northern Territory Government (Stephen Taylor writes).

Mr Marshall Perron, Attorney-General of the territory, announced his decision yesterday on the move by Mrs Chamberlain's lawyers to have her released on licence, but declined to elaborate.

Mrs Chamberlain has been in prison since April, 1983, having been convicted of murdering her 10-week-old baby Azaria.

NZ journalists lose new technology fight

From Our Correspondent, Wellington

Journalists have lost the first round in their battle with their proprietors over new technology. They returned to work yesterday after an 11-day strike which failed to gain assurances that non-union staff would not be used for strike-breaking in the future.

At the heart of the dispute was a fear by the 900 striking members of the NZ Journalists' Union that new technology would reduce their industrial muscle. The journalists sought, but failed to receive, an assurance that non-union staff - such as duty editors - would not be used to break stoppages.

Most newspapers, except for those in the Auckland region,

were affected. Nearly 20 dailies either ceased publication or were reduced to galleys.

● An Englishman and an Australian have been given the two most powerful positions in New Zealand broadcasting (Reuters reports). The New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation said yesterday that Mr Julian Mounier had been appointed director-general of Television New Zealand, while Mr Nigel Dick would become the corporation's chief executive.

Mr Mounier, aged 41, has worked as a reporter, producer and senior executive with the BBC, Thames Television and London Weekend Television.

Crusade by Mrs Ecevit

Ankara - Turkey's New Democratic Left Party (DSP) has elected Mrs Rahsan Ecevit, wife of the former Social Democrat Prime Minister, Mr Bulent Ecevit, to head its crusade against both the rival Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) and the Conservative Government of Mr Turgut Ozal (Rasit Gurdilek writes).

Mrs Ecevit, unanimously declared chairwoman by the party's founders at the weekend, relayed a message from her husband saying that he would still need his help seven years from now, when the restrictions run out.

She then attacked the rival SHP, accusing it of falsely claiming to represent the country's Social Democrats.

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THE ARTS

Galleries

A celebration of painting

**The Artist's Eye:
Francis Bacon**
National Gallery

**Hommage to
Barcelona**
Hayward

Kevin Coates
Victoria and Albert
Museum

Walking into the National Gallery's Sunley room must be among the most uplifting public experiences available to Londoners today. The pleasure does not merely lie in Francis Bacon's concentration of 14 of the collection's masterpieces in one room (until December 15). Bacon's choice cuts through period and style; the works have been assessed purely on their inherent qualities as paintings. The spacious hanging and juxtaposition of pictures has been judged on their impact on the eye. It was no accident that the eye which grouped them together happens to be one of the greatest of the century. It is good to see the National Gallery renewing its long and close association with living artists in such an uncompromising way.

In his own work Bacon is concerned with making and remaking images. He dislikes stories because they disperse attention, and he is only interested in concentrating emotion on the canvas. His hardly surprising therefore to find on the first wall two portraits of Margaret de Geer, Jacob Trip's wife. Seizing the

head from the rest of the body with the massive ruff, Rembrandt focuses on the former. Tension is added by the hands, but the sheer power of the personality comes from the head.

Tracing influences on Bacon is not the main point of the exhibition. The artist underlines this by refusing to take advantage of his right to include one of his own works. He is his own fiercest critic, which is further indicated by the omission of Raphael's *Julius II*, on which Velázquez based his *Two Men*, which in turn inspired Bacon's famous series of screaming popes. The artist's pictorial language has developed, so instead he chose Velázquez's *Rokeby Venus* and contrasted her against Degas's pastel *Woman Drying Herself*. Degas, in his positioning of models in interiors, undoubtedly helped Bacon achieve his own intense figures enclosed in domestic walls.

The Artist's Eye demonstrates time and again how painters can concentrate years of emotion on to one canvas - the execution of an emperor in Manet, a train and a hare hurtling out of Turner's, or the contemplation of the secret life of a Velázquez woman. This small exhibition is a celebration of painting. Confronted by Michelangelo's *Entombment*, awed into silence, most people will recognize Bacon's wisdom: "Painting is its own language and is not translatable into words".

It is said that Bacon's own exhibition at the Tate has now departed to Stuttgart, because an understanding of the knowledge of painting will win him new friends. After visiting the Hayward's latest show, *Hommage to Barcelona: The City and its Art 1888-1936* (until February

23), you might decide to take a trip to include both Stuttgart and Barcelona. The Barcelona show is in extreme contrast to *The Artist's Eye*. There are very few masterpieces in the Hayward, and it is shoddily presented; the lively spirit of the city is created by brilliant slide-shows and a strange process of montage.

Hommage to Barcelona is clever in that it introduces the visitor to the city in a natural manner. Its two main achievements are in giving an illuminating idea of the city from which Picasso emerged and producing a triumphant display of Gaudí's architecture. Picasso's debt to the city goes far beyond the influence of local painters; the organizers of the exhibition have crammed the low-ceilinged galleries with decorative arts and constantly flash images of the Mediterranean city's rich, flamboyant architecture.

Barcelona is famous for its exhibitions. Indeed the present show spans the period between the Universal Exhibition of 1888 and the International Exhibition of 1929 and a little beyond. It is not only Picasso's, Dalí's and Miró's international connections that are stressed, but the series of ambitious town-planning designs are seen as an endeavour to establish its world standing. From out of this serious intent, Gaudí's magnificent buildings and projects evolve to seize the imagination. It is as though the splendid art nouveau buildings of Gaudí and Brunell have got up and frolicked in the midday sun in all their summer colours.

Kevin Coates's exhibition at the Victoria and Albert (until January 9) gives us a revealing glimpse of the Strong vision of the future of museums. The



A language all its own: Michelangelo's unfinished *Entombment*

jewellery galleries have been redesigned not once but twice in the past 10 years, so the Director's anxieties over the display of the permanent collections should have been fully met. The well-lit cases appear to glow out into the dark rooms with the dull gold power of the six thousand jewels. Coates's contemporary work is blended carefully into the whole

though, sadly, the mixture of old and new can occasionally be counter-productive and this is one of the rare occasions. A comparison between *Athens Nocturna*, the titanium blue jewel commissioned by the museum, and the Canning Jewel does little for the work of the living goldsmith. Coates's craftsmanship is not in question, his mathematical and musicologi-

cal theories may be interesting, but the emotional content is lacking. Whereas a Bacon could have sat happily in the Sunley room, because it would match the emotional and intellectual power of the other masterpieces, the Coates jewellery unfortunately is diminished by the splendour of the old.

Alistair Hicks

Theatre: Harold Pinter returns

Old Times
Henry Fonda,
Los Angeles

It has been almost twenty years since Harold Pinter last appeared on stage, so his American takeover of the role of Deeley in *Old Times* comes as an intriguing reminder of his origins as an actor in repertory and before that the touring companies of Wolfitt and McMaster in the early Fifties. This David Jones production of his play, now destined for Broadway early next year, is essentially the one that played at the Haymarket earlier this year with Pinter now stepping into Michael Gambon's shoes. The rest of the cast (Liv Ullmann and Nicola Pagetti) stays unchanged in Timothy O'Brien's chilly set.

Old Times has always been one of Pinter's most readily accessible plays, but his own performance lightens it considerably: where once it most seemed to owe allegiance to Sartre's *Huis Clos* and the notion of hell being other people, the play now resembles a more accessible, less daunting *Design for Living*, also of course the work of an actor-author-director. Bisexuality and the

utter impossibility of living either apart or together are the themes of a curiously edgy, sardonic and cowardly triangle, one that reverberates to the sound of old films and even older musical memories.

It is not often that you get to hear Pinter sing "Blue Moon" and "All the Things You Are" or at any rate fragments thereof, and a play that derives much of its background from precise memories of *Old Man Oat* might seem well enough suited to a newly refurbished theatre on Hollywood Boulevard that has only recently been restored to its original function from years as a flea-pit cinema. But the average attention-span of a Hollywood audience is still brief, and perhaps because of the myth of Pinter as a dark and impenetrable writer audiences here seem unwilling as yet to laugh at what is intermittently a very funny play.

As in her London stage debut a few months ago, Liv Ullmann brings to an essentially hot-house evening that air of Scandinavian efficiency with which Ingrid Bergman used to blast through Shaw, allowing Nicola Pagetti (as the pawn in the power games being played by the other two characters) to become the central focus of a sexual and territorial struggle



Pinter: shedding light

fought through to its conclusion in language that seems to have been lovingly hacked out of granite.

Three people in a room occupying different and occasionally overlapping dimensions of time and space: but it is Pinter alone here, nattily attired in a white jacket and matching socks, who nudges us towards the realization that this was always after all meant to be a kind of comedy as well as a drama of menace. His Los Angeles performance has already reportedly brought him several Hollywood acting offers, and he is soon to play Goldberg in a BBC television production of his *Birthday Party*. This could just be the new beginning of a long-abandoned stage and film career.

Sheridan Morley

Concert

ECO/Uchida
Queen Elizabeth Hall/
Radio 3

Mitsuko Uchida's Mozart concerto cycle is now sufficiently advanced for two trends to be spotted. First, this slender, Tokyo-born pianist looks as if she will attract 10 consecutive full houses - a mundane point, perhaps, but doubtless gratifying to the English Chamber Orchestra in these uncertain times. Second, it is a remarkably consistent cycle so far, an even display of virtuosity (her technical blemishes to date can be counted on the fingers of no hands) and of temperament.

Indeed, the emotional level of the previous concert in this series struck me as being a little too flat and unresponsive to the music's potential depths. Here, however, there could be no doubting Miss Uchida's interpretative maturity. For after moving gracefully and with many a keenly-observed nuance through the comparatively lightweight concertos K238 and K246 she delivered an outstanding performance of the great E flat Concerto, K271.

The opening movement had been impressive enough, with a nicely calculated conversational tone at the outset and a cadenza where she had built excitement by accelerating through some well-pointed bass runs and then, with a telling softening of tone,

lingered as if entranced over the magical enharmonic modulation. But it was in the slow movement that her reading seemed most apt. She established a tragic atmosphere from the outset by encouraging the orchestra to accentuate the exposition's astringent dissonance, and then she produced her weightiest timbre yet for the piano's arching contrapuntal contours. There was a properly sombre emphasis, too, on those emotive diminished chords, before Miss Uchida rounded the movement off with a cadenza of wonderful restraint and tranquility.

In the finale she returned to her more customary skimming dexterity. Her unaccompanied opening set a blistering pace which was still flexible enough to allow some delightfully poised phrasing. Here too there was contrast: the abrupt entry of the minuet heralded some noble and mellifluous playing from both orchestra and soloist.

Richard Morrison

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Television

Media exploitation

Torched cars, looted shops, running battles in the streets and mobs stoning the police - the images of racial tension have become familiar through television coverage. Images command our attention much more readily than issues; in *Race Against Prime Time* (Channel 4), an award-winning American documentary examining television news coverage of race riots in Miami in 1980, the social damage resulting from the local news coverage was vividly delineated.

In *Race Against Prime Time* the evidence was incontrovertible. Citizens in the Miami ghetto, however educationally deprived, were smart enough to notice that only acts of violence and lawlessness by their community drew the television crews - positive progress made by the black culture, or injustices perpetrated against Blacks, had low news value. In the local newsroom it emerged that the journalists' prime source of information had been the police radio frequencies.

As a result, the news media were resented and regarded as part of the overall white oppression. The television audience was offered an incoherent succession of violent images, which were stripped of their social and historical context as the broadcasting professionals unthinkingly complied with newscasters' prime concern of stress a journalist like a soldier, is not encouraged to question commands. The Miami interviewees said they felt used by the medium.

Since the Civil Rights era of the late Sixties, American television has set up guidelines for the coverage of civil strife. These vary from station to station, but usually include a ban on the use of television lights at night, a ban on interviews with rioters, a ban on the use of identifiable cars and an injunction not to report violence while ignoring its cause. This last is evidently the hardest rule to keep.

Panorama (BBC1) needed to tread more carefully to compile a picture of Toxteth, the ghetto area of Liverpool which is probably the most extreme example of black alienation in Britain. The chairman of the Liverpool Police Committee, Margaret Simey, said plainly that efforts to suppress the profound sense of injustice felt by the people of Toxteth would, in her opinion, lead to a catastrophe comparable to that of Ulster.

Many of the shortcomings identified in the American documentary had been avoided by the *Panorama* team, who had evidently been at pains to seek out genuine community leaders and representative citizens for interview in place of detached experts. This initiative was a little blunted by introducing these interviewees with mildly pejorative tags like "self-appointed" or "volatile", but the overall picture was of a cohesive and potentially stable neighbourhood.

What cannot be reported is as important as what is available for coverage in determining the balance of current affairs programming. In Miami in 1980 a radio station received over 1,000 calls protesting about white vigilantes cruising in a car shooting Blacks, but the item never made the news. In Liverpool this autumn the Roman Catholic Archbishop, Derek Worlock, was according to *Panorama*, almost run down by a police car being driven wildly down a pavement to intimidate the population, but the Archbishop would not be interviewed. The mechanism of news imbalance is evidently more complex than mere double standards held by broadcasters.

This was the last *Panorama* programme presented by the reporter Philip Tibenham, and a worthy farewell. It reported violence and also examined the cause, but there is evidently room for a much more positive initiative throughout British broadcasting; it will be good to see the day when a statistic like "90 per cent unemployment among Toxteth's Blacks" cannot be used without context.

Celia Brayfield

Pop music

Elaine Paige
Albert Hall

As a general rule, I try not to follow the trend in popular music criticism towards reviewing the audience rather than the show. Elaine Paige's audience, however, defined the mood of her concert to such a degree that it is impossible to ignore them.

Their tepid response to almost every stage of her performance suggested that they had been expecting something else altogether. Since the single exception occurred when they rose to welcome the unexpected appearance of Barbara Dickson, who joined Miss Paige to sing "I Know Him So Well" from *Chess*, perhaps they had been expecting somebody else altogether.

Rapture was otherwise strictly confined as the show's components were slotted into place under the direction of Michael Bogdanov. Predictably, he gave us Elaine as the first Evita in "Don't Cry For Me,

Argentina", Elaine as Grizabella in "Memory" from *Cats* and Elaine the plucky little trapper in "Absolutely Nothing" from *A Chorus Line*.

He should have spared us Elaine the teenage pop fan in cheap and nasty arrangements of various items from the Everly Brothers and others, and Elaine the soul singer, who proved "I'm So Excited" and "This Will Be" to be embarrassingly deficient in the basic ability to swing.

Miss Paige belongs in the musical theatre, where she can rely on a script and her sudden bursts of script-braced shrillness can persuade coach parties to stop the show. Elaine being coquettish or sincere, though, is not the same thing at all as Evita being coquettish or sincere. Invited to "be herself" on the concert platform, she and her audience make the mutually depressing discovery that there is no significant self for her to be.

Richard Williams

HAYWARD GALLERY

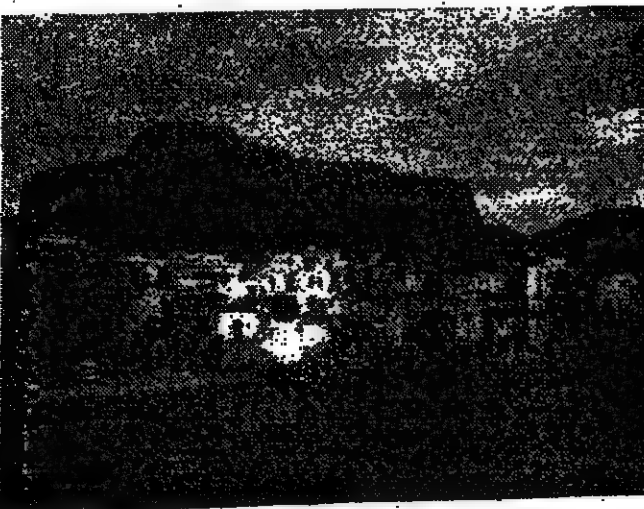
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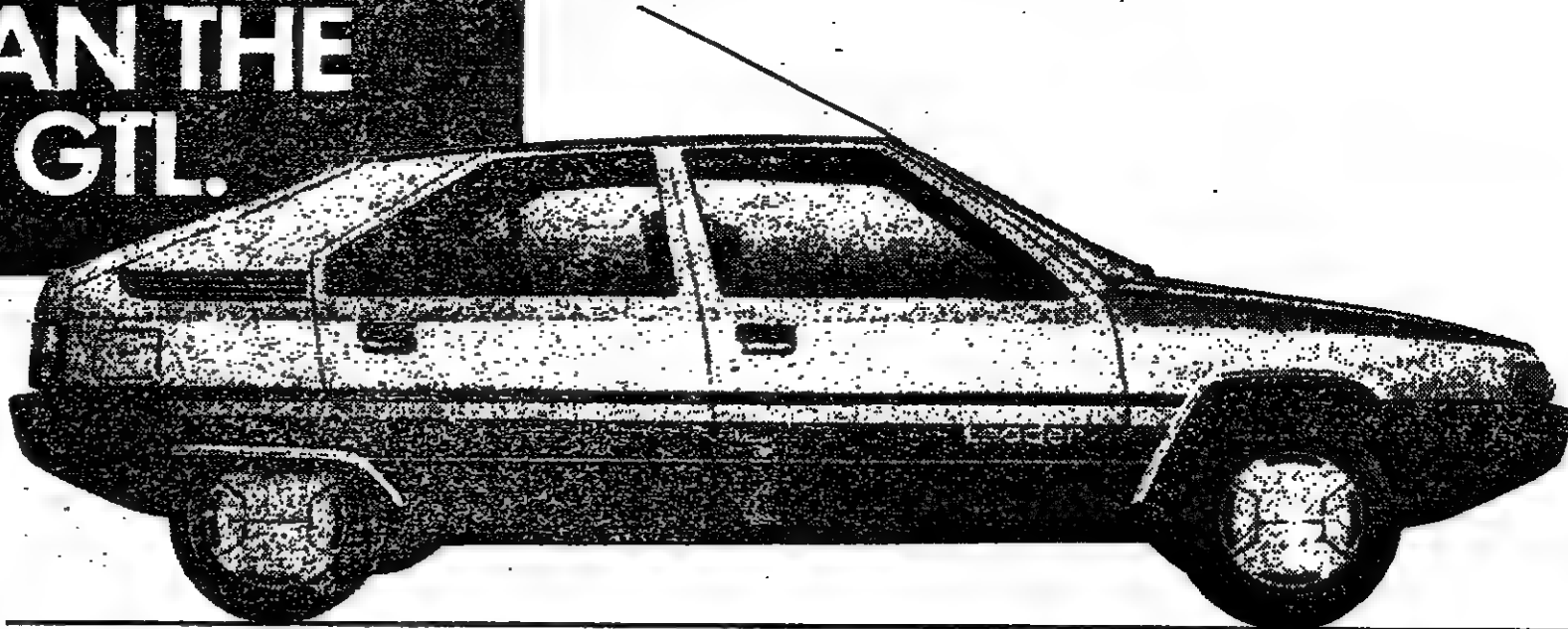
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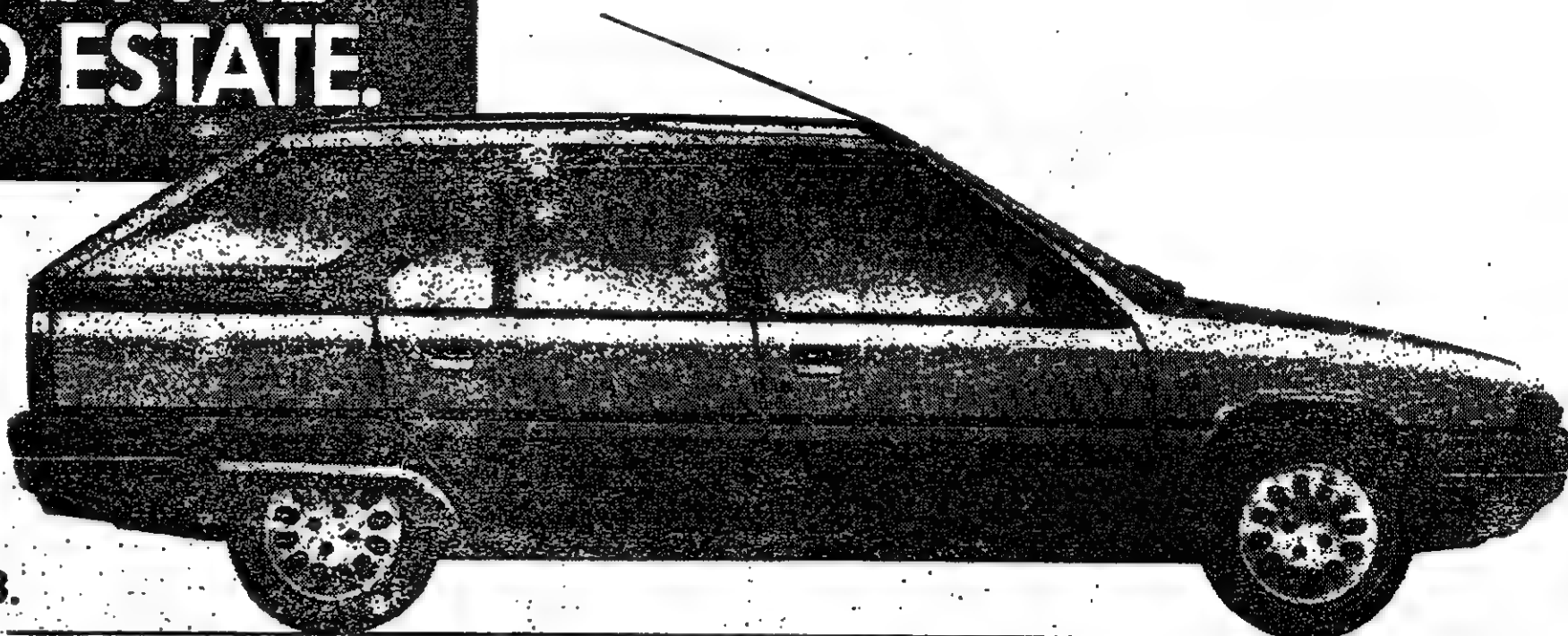
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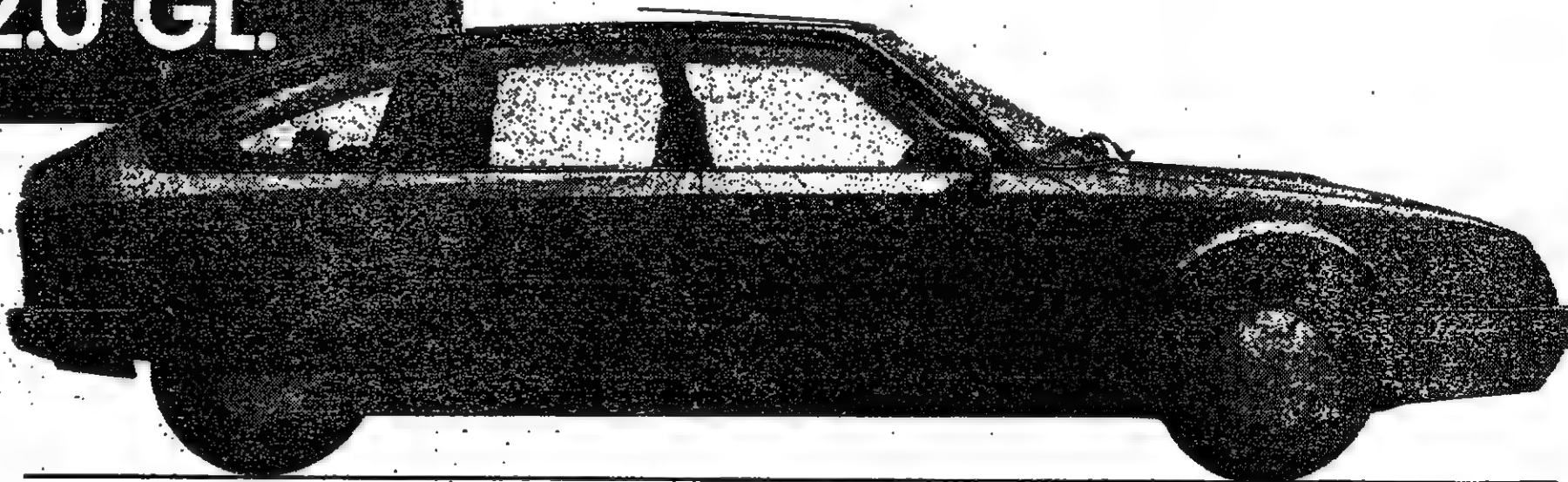
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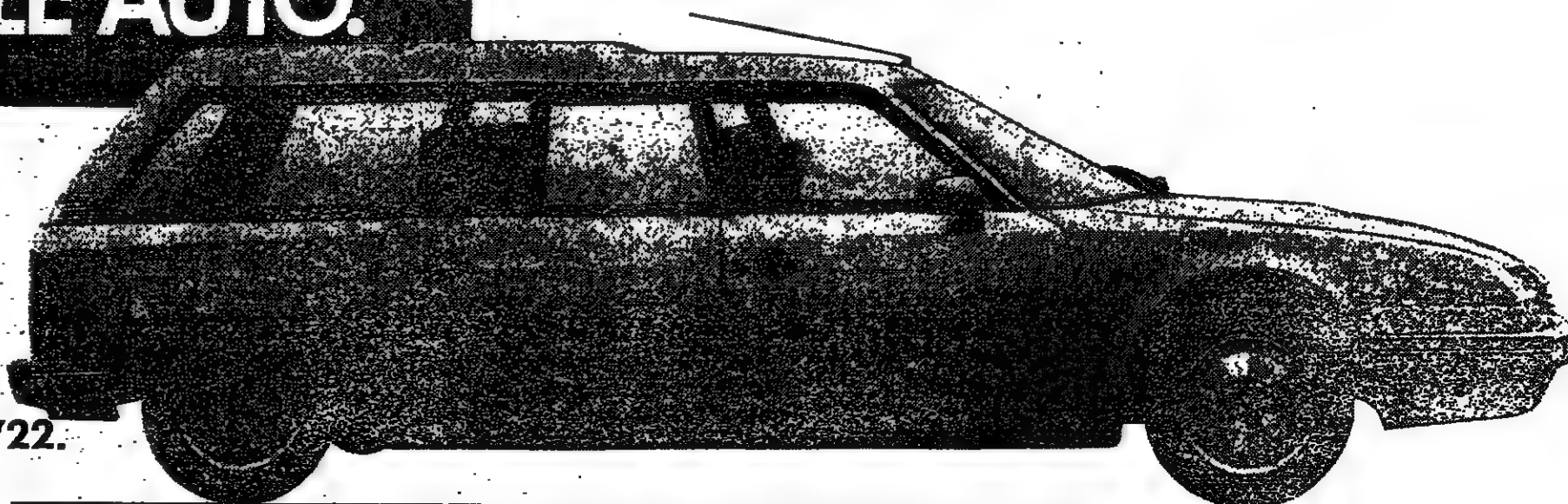
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FASHION by Suzy Menkes

The latest dynasty of party dresses is as frothy as a gin fizz with a Hollywood message of glossy, sensual elegance



Toujours glamour

Glamour was born of the silver screen and has been born again on television. Fifty years after Gloria Swanson's swansdown and Mae West's drop-dead dressing, Joan Collins has revived glamorous fashion.

Her Dynasty wardrobe is as much a part of the soap series as were the images of impossible elegance in early Hollywood movies. The magnetic appeal of the mega-star as an escape from a humdrum world was poignantly expressed in Woody Allen's latest film *The Purple Rose of Cairo*.

Fantasy on film last took over from reality in the drab post-war years, when Marilyn Monroe's curvaceous sheath dresses and platinum hair expressed a gleaming glamour after years of make-do and mend.

Perhaps there is a similar urge today to escape from bad news into a world where cracks in a marriage are covered in lip gloss, and hair spray holds families together. Joan Collins, just like past screen goddesses, perpetuates her glamour status off-screen, and we seem eager to follow in her high-heeled footsteps.

The stuff of this season's party fashion is as frothy as a gin fizz. "Scarlet Woman" sheath dresses cling like a second skin and strapless bodices mould the figure in satin and velvet. The same message of sensual elegance reverberates right down the high street, where little black dresses hang in well-coordinated Next, and shoe-string strap sheaths are on sale in wholesome M & S.

Glamour is a product of this century and could not have been projected when clothes were a vehicle for rank and status of society's elite. The fashion concept of surreal elegance is inextricably bound up with the rise of haute couture. Joan

Collins's fantastic outfits, from her tip-tilted hats to her glossy stockings, owe more to Parisian pre-war chic than to Hollywood's more ostentatious packaging.

A lavish new book illustrates in more than 350 pictures the high noon of haute couture, when Balmain and Dior created the clothes moulded to the bodies of models who looked haughty rather than naughty. The author spans fashion from Paul Poiret's oriental exotica to Balenciaga's sculptural chic, and includes the glamorous gowns created for Joan Crawford by Hollywood's costume designer, Adrian.

But as we come down to our own age, Caroline Rennolds Milbank, viewing fashion from an American's standpoint, starts to confuse couture with designer fashion and profiles Kenzo, Ralph Lauren and Katharine Hepburn as though they were part of a dynasty of couture.

We are living at a time when couture is back in fashion, not just in France's fashion capital, but both as a métier and an image to aim for. The British made-to-order designers like Edelstein and Oldfield report a boom in business. The look of polish and glamour that was submerged by ready-to-wear is re-surfacing as high style.

For most women, glamour is best handled tongue-in-cheic and the current party wear reflects this mood. On this page you can see Belville Sassoon's cheeky flapper dress with a lampshade fringing breaking up the hour-glass outline. Victor Edelstein's black velvet is overlaid with flounces of scarlet spotted net. Murray Arbeid, with the skills of haute couture, unfolds duchess satin lined in net at the knees like the petals of a flower.

It is all a far cry from the easy evening separates we have been wearing or the androgynous tuxedo jackets and trousers. The flirtatious dresses also contradict the feminist fashion philosophy that sees glamour dressing as an old-fashioned sexist plot, long since relegated to the past.

The revival of evening glamour has come on the backs of the 20-year-olds who have been freed from the constraints of demanding fashion. The children weaned on Babygro and brought up in dungarees and track suits were never supposed to need to suffer to be beautiful. Only their mothers and an older generation remembered the high heels, hobble skirts and encasing pantie girdles that once defined the role of women.

But today's heroines are Tina Turner and Madonna, who project a raunchy image nearer to Monroe and Mae West than the Sixties favourite, Joan Baez.

Sociologists are inclined to read into fashion significance that sounds convincing. But I suspect that the lurch from fresh-air make-up and back-to-nature dressing to glamour and glitz expresses merely the essence of fashion itself.

Fashion is about change, and what was long will be followed by short; baggy, oversized clothes are replaced by form-fitting styles; a mourning pall of black is followed by splashes of bright colour.

Those women who, at night, dress for dynasty and drink a toast to a sophisticated cocktail called "Toujours Glamour", will be back in sporty separates next morning as surely as day follows night.

Couture, the Great Fashion Designers, by Caroline Rennolds Milbank (Thames & Hudson, £45).

Scarlet taffeta and net petal skirt unfolding on black velvet, £560 from Murray Arbeid, 169 Sloane Street, SW1. Feathered velvet cocktail hat by Graham Smith at Kangol £144 from Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1. Twisted jet and pearl necklace, £34, hand ear-rings, £44, by Butler and Wilson, 189 Fulham Road, SW3 and 20 South Molton Street, W1. Sheer black tights with flowers and diamanté l. Charnos, £5.95 from major stores. Black velvet shoes with a r. satin bow, £155 from Maud Frizon, 31 Old Bond Street, W1



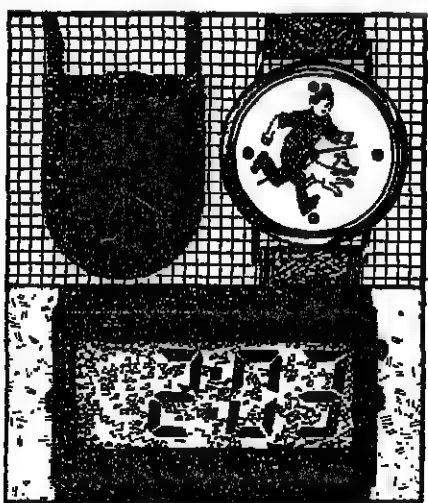
Black silk velvet and red spotted silk organza dress to order from Victor Edelstein, 9 Stanhope Mews West, SW7. Spiral and treble-clef ear-rings, £35, jet bracelets, £45 from Butler and Wilson branches. Sheer Charnos tights £5.95. Satin shoes with silver bows, £155 from Maud Frizon, 31 Old Bond Street, W1.

Photographs: Tony McGee

Hair: Martin Brooks for Schumi. Make-up: Helen. for Yves Saint Laurent Beauté

Scarlet ruched cocktail dress with tiered lampshade fringing on silk paper taffeta, also in black, £229 from Belville Sassoon, 73 Pavilion Road, SW1 and Foxy, Aberdeen. Long black suede gloves, £144 from Yves Saint-Laurent, 113 New Bond Street, W1. Art-deco jet and diamanté necklace, £98, ear-rings, £28, both from Butler and Wilson, 189 Fulham Road, SW3 and 20 South Molton Street, W1. Black tights patterned with bows, £2.99 by Charnos from major stores. Red velvet court shoes, £155 from Maud Frizon, 31 Old Bond Street, W1.

Witty watches for all weathers



Far Left: Smooth black pendant watch on a sinuous rubber cord by Bruno Ninaber, £175 from Joseph Pour La Maison, 16 Sloane Street, SW1

Left: Tin-Tin cartoon watch, solid metal with a leather strap, £17.95 from Zone at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1

Below: Window of Time glitter digital watch by Agostino, £49 from Joseph Pour La Maison, 16 Sloane Street, SW1

Illustration by Brian Evans

Time is on our side this winter. The watch market is flooded with witty waterproof designs. With the emphasis on cheap and cheerful, Swatch lead the field with watch designs for every occasion - hi-tech for day, bright and sporty for fun, paisley or lace for evening.

For the festive season there's a limited edition called "Lime-light" Swatch with a sleek black face fitted with tiny Swatch diamonds and a sprinkling of colourful stones for £75.

Old favourites like Snoopy and Donald Duck have been replaced by cars, planes and motor bikes in bright neon-coloured designs with raised dome faces on rubber straps for £11.95 by Addition. Fifties cartoon character Tin-Tin has been revived recently and is now available for £17.95 on the face of a solid metal watch with a smart black leather strap.

All these watches are available from selections at Fenwick, New Bond Street, W1; Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1; Harvey Nichols, Knights-

bridge, SW1; Rackhams in Birmingham and Kendals in Manchester.

A smooth black pendant on a sinuous rubber cord by Bruno Ninaber for £175 is one of the high-tech designs from the chic Joseph Pour La Maison shop at 16 Sloane Street, SW1.

The Watch Gallery at 129 Fulham Road, SW3, is a haven of precision timing and immaculate design. The Astrolabium made by Ulysse Nardin, with a price tag of £13,000 and accuracy to one day in 144,000 years, is just one example of the rare pieces trucked down by The Watch Gallery's joint partner Simon Gaul.

From Cartier comes the ultimate Christmas present. The Pasha, a solid gold waterproof watch originally designed in 1933 for the Pasha of Marrakesh who expressed a desire to "be able to bathe while keeping a sense of time". It has been redesigned with an optional solid gold protective guard and sells for £7,465.

Rebecca Tyrrel

FASHION PEOPLE

The star of last week's Birthday Ball at the Royal Albert Hall was not Ringo Starr in his flame-red bow tie, nor his wife, Barbara Bach, in clinging crimson crepe and star-spangled shoes; nor even the Princess of Wales in her plunge-back scarlet gown.

The talk of the evening was the transformation of the cavernous Royal Albert Hall into a 400-foot frieze of masks spanning the uppermost tier. The 111 box fronts were covered with cloth of gold and decorated with pleated fans. Banquet tables were lined up with rococo bows. The decor was matched by the 1,800-strong audience who, almost to a woman, had followed the designer dictates to dress in scarlet or gold.

Behind this triumphantly successful decor, which had older members of the Albert Hall's staff reminiscing about grand evenings in the 1930s, was 34-year-old Paul Dyson, the display manager of Harvey Nichols.

Dyson's conception of a Victorian Christmas overlaid with Renaissance splendour was an extension of his lavish Christmas windows currently in the store. "I thought of a red

and gold theme for the Albert Hall because I wanted to work with the building rather than against it," he says. "I then bamboozled the committee into asking the guests to dress in red and gold and become part of the decor."

Paul Dyson, whose striking windows have made him one of London's leading display artists, started his career as a display manager with Harvey Nichols 15 years ago. His first large-scale effort was the decoration of the Royal Opera House last year for an NSPCC Gala Evening.

Edward Kayne, chairman of Harvey Nichols (co-sponsors of the Birthday Ball), paid tribute to Dyson and his staff for their achievement which followed a month of seven-day-a-week work on the store's Christmas windows.

The culmination of Dyson's display was an altar piece of masks banking the stage. They were designed as works of art by celebrities from Dame Elisabeth Frink's sculptural shape to Angus McBean's sequinned extravaganzas. The masks included work by Sir Sidney Nolan, Andrew Logan, Zandra Rhodes and even Elton John.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Wallis's collection

Love letters written by Wallis Simpson to the Duke of Windsor before their marriage look set to be published by Weidenfeld after her death. They are believed to be contained in a hitherto-secret biography authorised by the bedridden, 89-year-old Duchess and written by Michael Bloch, assistant to her lawyer, Maître Suzanne Blum. After a lifetime of what her friends consider grotesque misrepresentation, the book aims to set the record straight. It is believed to contain about 80 love letters written by the Duke and Duchess to each other which escaped being taken to the royal archives at Windsor after the Duke's death in 1972. "They contain the truth, for here are two people talking intimately through the written word. Her letters... are tender, maternal and exquisite," Maître Blum has said. Bloch's agent, Andrew Best, admitted the existence of such a book yesterday, but nothing more. Weidenfeld refused to comment. Michael Joseph has on the stocks another book, *Rat 1945*, by the Duke's close friend, Sir Osbert Sitwell, which details the complex Royal Family politics at the time of the abdication and has since been considered too hot to handle. That, too, will be published only after the Duchess's death.

It's so cheering when an apocryphal story comes true. Over the weekend two scrap metal merchants made an offer for a 12-foot long aluminium structure, named "Installation", erected outside the Royal College of Art as part of this week's Art in Norway exhibition.

Off course

I hope students don't rely too much on the BBC O-level economics radio series. In a lesson on the importance of location in business, the Leeds HQ of the Systime computer group was used as an example of a base featuring "all the advantages" of location. The BBC obviously had not heard the announcement from Systime's new chairman, Mr. John Smith, after £3.4 million last year, it was selling the building.



'Good heavens! Another previously undiscovered Shakespeare poem!'

Come in No 15

Things are becoming so relaxed in the Soviet Union that Russians will soon be allowed to read Marx unexpurgated. Approval has been given for publication of volume 15 of his collected works, a waspish essay called *The Secret Diplomatic History of the 18th Century* which says the Russians originate from "the bloody mire of Mongolian slavery" and display "the encroaching methods of the Mongol slave with the world-conquering tendencies of the Mongolian master." The last attempt to issue the essay as part of Marx's collected works was in 1932. The editor ended up in Siberia.

Denis Healey is advertised to appear at the Friends Meeting House in London tonight at the same time as Cliff Slaughter of the Workers Revolutionary Party. Now there really is realignment of the left.

Knight fall

Surprise, surprise. Last week I reported an extraordinary amount of arm-twisting among Labour activists in Lambeth following the exclusion of the controversial council leader, Ted Knight, from the shortlist of candidates for his ward seat in next May's council elections. Now, with three women councillors dropping out, Knight has been selected to stand for Farnside ward - albeit in bottom place of the candidates' list. Ward secretary Jen Bowen assures me that the question of undue pressure having been exerted over the selection has barely raised its ugly head in ward committee discussions.

Big push

Accommodation for the proposed Anglo-Irish Secretariat is being arranged in precipitate haste. Yesterday the lowly factory inspectorate, a sub-section of Northern Ireland's Department of Economic Development, pulled out of a seminar saying it had been given 24 hours to vacate its offices. Maryfield, a small modern block in its own grounds between Belfast and Holywood, four miles away. Maryfield is ideal: with a long approach drive security is relatively easy to arrange; it is close to both Stormont and Belfast Harbour airport - and, perhaps most important, it is immediately over the fence from Palace Barracks, and its regular army battalion.

Those who framed the Anglo-Irish agreement hoped that it would bring "peace and stability" to Northern Ireland by "ending the alienation" of the minority community. The minority may indeed be a little less alienated: a *Sunday Times* poll at the weekend showed a 2 per cent drop in support for Sinn Féin. But after the agreement, as before, the IRA, based in the minority, is continuing to murder people. The effect on the minority is faint.

The main impact of the agreement is on the Protestant population - massively expressed outside Belfast City Hall on Saturday. The effect achieved is the alienation of the majority. What kind of "peace and stability" is likely to be obtained on that basis we are about to see.

The Unionists are told, of course, that they ought to be pleased with the agreement. It confirms the right of Northern Ireland to remain in the United Kingdom so long as a majority of its inhabitants so desire. And it brings them, for the first time, recognition by the Republic of Northern Ireland's status within the United Kingdom.

To the first point Unionists reply that the right in question has been many times solemnly reaffirmed and did not need "confirmation" through an agreement concluded over their heads. As regards the second, Unionists see the Republic's "recognition" as equivocal. This is necessarily so. Recognition can be no more than is compatible with the Irish constitution, according to which "the national territory" is the whole island of Ireland. There is not any Unionist who finds any crumb of comfort in "recognition" of that kind.

But the political impact of the agreement will not be determined by the fine print, or by debating points, or by theories about how people ought to feel, but by how people actually do feel. And the feeling, on both sides of the great Protestant/Catholic divide, is that the Catholics have won a significant step in the direction of a united Ireland, through the recognition of the Republic's right to be consulted in the affairs of Northern Ireland and the embodiment of that right in institutional form, in the Anglo-Irish Conference.

Both enemies and friends of John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, see him as having "got his toe in the door". Both expect him to use that leverage with his usual pertinacity and tactical skill, to make progress in the direction of what the Irish constitution calls "the reintegration of the national territory". When Unionists hear the endless explanations about how their status, within the Union, is actually fortified by the deal, they feel people are trying to con them - and they have a point.

I think I understand how the government of the Republic got into this ill-omened agreement: I am not quite so clear about how and why the government of the United Kingdom did so. The motivation of Garret FitzGerald's government is honourable, even to the verge of the Quixotic. FitzGerald is driven on by a determination to rescue the "constitutional nationalists" of the SDLP from the electoral inroads of Sinn Féin, the political arm of the Provisional IRA.

Beirut Terry Anderson is trying to learn French. As his textbook, he has two old, tattered copies of *L'Orient Le Jour*, Lebanon's French-language daily newspaper. For a teacher he has his fellow hostage, Tom Sutherland, Dean of Agriculture at the American University in Beirut.

Twice a day, Anderson and Sutherland and the two other Americans held captive by the Islamic Jihad movement - Father Martin Jenco, a Catholic priest, and David Jacobsen, director of the American University hospital in Beirut - hold religious services together, each taking it in turns to read from the Bible.

Anderson, the bureau chief of the Associated Press news agency in Beirut but since March 16 - when he was kidnapped by armed men near his West Beirut home - he has written only one long and deeply moving letter to his family, telling them, in as much detail as his captors would presumably allow him, of the minutiae of the small, consigned world in which he now lives. He returns to the hostages, the kidnappers want the release of 17 men jailed in Kuwait for bombing the US and French embassies there in 1983.

Remembering the friend and colleague with whom one worked in Lebanon, sometimes in conditions of great danger, it seems a fearful irony that a man with so broad an outlook to life and so formidable a personality should be so "cabin'd, crib'd, confined", forced to fall back on an inner courage which he had never had to test before.

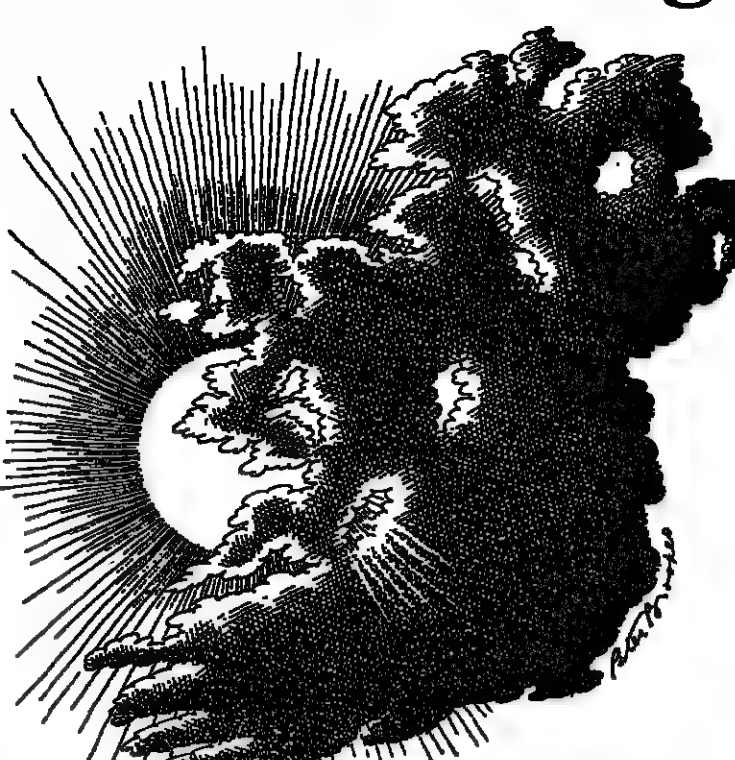
The Terry Anderson we all know in Beirut is a cheerful, humorous, almost flamboyant character; unpredictable, impatient, occasionally rash, often overweight, who would come puffing into the office, scarcely able to gasp out what he had seen in the streets for his desire to write about it. When the Israelis launched their heaviest bombardment against West Beirut in the long, dark days of the 1982 invasion, Anderson would sit in the basement shelters with the Muslim population so that he could write at first hand about their suffering.

One day in early August of that year, he had with ingenuity made his way to the Barbir hospital on the very front line of West Beirut, only to find himself in an operating theatre as a child died of phosphorous poisoning after Israeli phosphorous shells had hit his home. Anderson returned to the cramped AP bureau, sat down in front of his typewriter and very briefly - the only time I saw it happen - he wept. "The child just died in front of me," he told us. "I love children. I could do nothing - I felt so helpless." Then he battered away on his old typewriter and produced one of the best pieces of war reporting from the Lebanon conflict.

Now, after more than eight months of captivity in Lebanon, it is still the same Terry Anderson who sent his letter a few days ago, addressing his eight, handwritten pages to his family, to the baby daughter he has never seen and to

Instead of peace, Conor Cruise O'Brien sees the Anglo-Irish accord leading to worsening conflict and the likely break-up of the nation

Why war clouds could rend the silver lining



To try to achieve that, he is prepared to accept the altogether uncharted political risks of having to answer to the Irish parliament about any and all of the many outward things that may happen in Northern Ireland. He has shown courage and altruism of an exceptionally high order, but I wish he had shown a bit more sense.

FitzGerald, in considering what to do in Northern Ireland, appears to have been almost exclusively preoccupied with the SDLP-Sinn Féin relationship. He seems to have taken note of the Unionist majority of Northern Ireland only as a rather vague sort of penumbra, outside the focal area of nationalist politics.

His mentor, in relation to Unionist opinion and probable reaction, is always John Hume, and the Unionist of Hume's optimistic reveries is a much more amenable animal than the Unionist of real life. FitzGerald ought to have learned a lesson at Sunningdale - when Hume's confident prediction that the Unionists would swallow the Council of Ireland, on top of the power-sharing executive, came so spectacularly unstuck - but apparently he and most of his colleagues learned nothing.

The Dublin government has no experience of governing Northern Ireland, and its illusions are relatively pardonable. But what about the UK government, which does have such experience, and which ought not to have such illusions? Can its members think the province is going to be governable under these arrangements? Do they think, for example, that the largely Protestant Royal Ulster Constabulary can be fully relied on to enforce arrangements rejected by at least 75 per cent of the Protestant population?

There must be, at least, very deep misgivings among officials with experience of Northern Ireland about all this. But I wonder whether certain politicians, and perhaps also certain officials, do not already discern a possible silver lining to the gathering clouds. "Silver lining" thinking, which could never be publicly avowed, might run more or less like this:

"Maybe this thing will work, and the Unionists will simmer down, having let off steam. If so, fine. But maybe they will not settle down. Maybe they'll keep on raising hell, so that we can no longer really govern the place. But might not that

outcome be quite good, too? It could give us the opportunity to get rid of Northern Ireland once and for all, in a way that would be fully understandable to public opinion.

"If these so-called Unionists reject the laws and the authority of the parliament and the government of the union, what reason will we have, any longer, to carry the burden of trying to govern the ungovernable? So this agreement with Dublin may yet end by offering us the way out of Northern Ireland which some of us have long been looking for."

Reflections of that tendency may possibly do something to explain the apparently reckless optimism with which Mrs Thatcher's government is entering into these very peculiar arrangements.

In a book called *States of Ireland*, published in 1972, I contemplated a "benign scenario" and a "malign scenario" for the future of Northern Ireland. The "benign scenario" was that the "water" of the Catholic areas might turn unhealthy for the "fish" of the Provisional guerrilla. That hope seemed reasonably plausible in the mid-1970s, but moribund by the beginning of the present decade, as it became clear that a large section of the Catholic minority support Sinn Féin-IRA more openly than ever before. FitzGerald hopes the agreement will give the kiss of life to the benign scenario, and there are perhaps some faint signs of resuscitation. It might work, under this agreement, if there were no Protestants to think about. But, as the agreement envisages Protestants, its effects, as they develop, must cause Catholics to look to their defences, as in 1969-70, and now as then they are likely to see the IRA as their defenders. The benign scenario is therefore not under way.

The "malign scenario" runs as follows: Britain finds that it cannot defeat the IRA and now finds itself under attack from Protestants as well as the IRA and its allies. So, having registered the hostility of the great majority of the population of Northern Ireland, Britain decides to withdraw. The withdrawal is followed by the Protestants setting up an independent government. This precipitates savage fighting between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland, followed by intervention by the Republic and civil war involving all Ireland.

The master assumption of this reasoning is that the IRA, moving, rather fast, towards the fulfilment of the "malign scenario". The potential for its fulfilment was always implicit in the sustained effort to move a million Ulster Protestants in the direction in which they refuse to move: a united Ireland.

Any MP who believes that "peace and stability can be obtained on that basis is engaged in extravagant and dangerous wishful thinking. On the other hand, if we now accept, as we must, that the IRA are moving, rather fast, towards the fulfilment of the "malign scenario", the potential for its fulfilment was always implicit in the sustained effort to move a million Ulster Protestants in the direction in which they refuse to move: a united Ireland.

Our main problem. It's the only way to keep the depression. I miss you terribly. I didn't think it was possible to hurt this much.

The sheer physical restriction of his confinement clearly oppresses Anderson, a reporter who always delighted in sudden decisions. One afternoon in the late autumn of 1983, US marines in Beirut became involved in a firefight with Shia Muslim militiamen in the slums of Hay el-Sellum, south of the city. Anderson realized at once that the Americans would try to ensure that their version of events was put out first. So without hesitation, he asked a colleague and the AP photographer to risk their lives with him - not alongside the marines but with the people of Hay el-Sellum under the guns of his own country's soldiers.

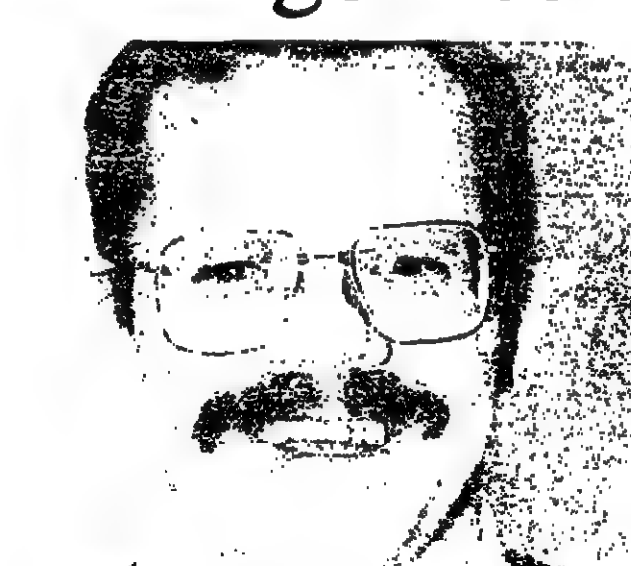
There, running from wall to wall and across vegetable gardens he discovered that the American press were falling on the roofs of civilian homes and that a school bus had been riddled with marine bullets. Anderson did not bias his stories: he just took the job of reporting very seriously and believed that the truth had to be told. No one ever accused him of being partial.

If the drama and excitement of Lebanon produced the best of Anderson's reporting, it also affected relations with his family in America, as his letter reveals. "I have been seeing bits and pieces of news about Peg [his sister] and Judy [another sister] and Dad and their efforts to get someone to do something - it's about the only encouragement we get. I love you all for it - how much I will only be able to tell you all when I'm home again. I realize now how much I have cut myself off from you over the years and how much I've lost by doing so. I want to see all of you again so badly, and I pray for each of you every night... I dream every day of the place at Batavia [New York State], and of building a small cottage by the stream, and working to clear the pond in the summers. I hope David [his sister Peggy's husband] has been able to reopen the well - if it's dead winter when I get out, I'd like to stay there awhile. I hope the AP will give me a few months off so we can enjoy the family. In nearly a decade overseas, I haven't spent much time with them."

This week Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, is trying to get Anderson and his three fellow captives home for Christmas. Anderson's task is difficult. Anderson's journalist colleagues in Beirut have exercised discretion in their reporting so as not to endanger Waite's work. This will not, however, change the implications of Anderson's kidnapping. When he was abducted last March, the big American newspapers and television networks withdrew all their own nationals from Beirut, and only a few newspapers remain based in the city. The irony is that those who abducted Anderson have - because of his honesty - more reason to give him back his freedom than keep him in captivity.

Robert Fisk glimpses the life in captivity of Lebanon hostage Terry Anderson

If Jihad is just, this man will go free



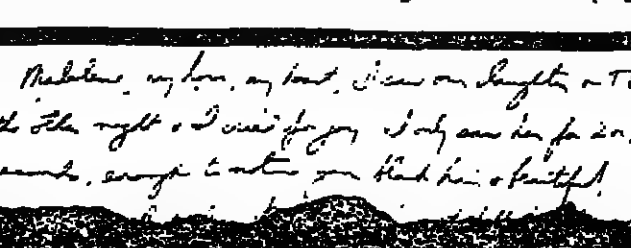
Anderson: courageous still after eight months incarceration

her mother Madeleine. The Anderson family had produced a videotape for his birthday - including pictures of his tiny child - and had successfully persuaded the Lebanese state television authorities to transmit it in the hope that he might be permitted to watch the broadcast. Anderson's emotional letter - which his family has now allowed *The Times* to publish - proved that the video reached him.

"Madeleine, my love, my heart," he wrote. "I saw our daughter on TV the other night and I cried for joy. I only saw her for 2 or 3 seconds, enough to notice your black hair and beautiful, bright eyes. But I can't describe how it felt to end months of not knowing. Our guards had seen the piece on the early news and brought in the TV for the later cast - all in Arabic, but at least I saw my family and the picture... I never cease thinking about you - I talk to

you (in my head) every night and in my early mornings. Those are the difficult times, and thinking of you helps. God has been good to us and I'm sure this is only an interruption of our lives together, one that if He wills, won't last much longer."

Anderson's letter - besides talking about his makeshift French lessons - also pays tribute to his fellow hostages, especially to Father Benjamin Weir, the Presbyterian minister who was released by Islamic Jihad earlier this year so that he could take a message to Washington. "I hope you got a chance to talk to Pastor Ben," Anderson wrote. "...he's a gentle and kind man whose faith never wavered - much like Father Jenco, who is one of the three men confined with me. They and the Bible I was given after the first few weeks have kept me sane. We have services twice a day, and choose readings in turn... Keeping occu-



An extract from Anderson's letter to his wife

Digby Anderson

Care less, Sir Keith

Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, was reported to be close to tears at a meeting with teachers last week. It is one of many incidents which could be recounted by his opponents and allies alike to show how much he cares about schools. His policies may be denounced as right-wing but few who have met him can doubt his genuine commitment to what he sees as better education. That is the problem: he is too committed. He cares too much. Sir Keith was Margaret Thatcher's sponsor and with her founder of the "dry" Centre for Policy Studies. It was Sir Keith who was "intellectually attracted" to education vouchers, a system by which schools would charge parents and parents pay for their children's education with allowances given them by government, thus giving parents choice of and direct influence over schools, those which did not come up to parents' expectations would have no pupils and no money to pay their teachers. It was Sir Keith too who gave his civil servants a reading list of economists and philosophers, advocating market rather than government solutions to contemporary problems.

Yesterday a book was published which Sir Keith himself should read if only for the message that he should worry less. *The New Right Enlightenment* (Economic and Literary Books) is a collection of essays by young - well, youngish - authors who have discovered the classical market liberalism which once so fired Sir Keith.

It offers not so much new ideas as evidence that these ideas are now attractive, respectable. They have captured the intellectual initiative. They, not socialism, are making the running. They have been labelled "new right" by their opponents but are largely those of classical liberalism supported by new analyses such as public choice theory and Austrian economics.

The master assumption of this reasoning is that the IRA, moving, rather fast, towards the fulfilment of the "malign scenario". The potential for its fulfilment was always implicit in the sustained effort to move a million Ulster Protestants in the direction in which they refuse to move: a united Ireland.

Sir Keith himself not only accepted but propounded these ideas a decade ago, well before they were fashionable or known by the term "new right". In consequence, many commentators have assumed that at the Department of Education and Science these ideas would be put into practice. That view becomes daily more difficult to sustain.

Seldon's intellectual offspring are decentralization and a minimal role for the state. In contrast, Sir Keith has increasingly centralized control of schools, colleges and universities. Increasingly, it is the state which decides which schools, courses and university departments expand, contract or survive. Central to the present teachers' strike is the state's desire to interfere in teachers' pay.

The rationale is that

because it is the state which takes taxpayers' money and funds state education, teachers and lecturers should be accountable to it.

Sir Keith and his bureaucrats intervene in all these educational matters "on behalf of" taxpayers, parents and students. That may be good: teachers, lecturers and bureaucrats obviously should not be free to spend taxpayers' money as they see fit, unanswerable to anyone but their colleagues. But the Joseph solution is not a liberal one. It is indeed the opposite of the "new right" solution. If "right" at all, it is decidedly old and distinctly paternalistic.

Under Sir Keith, control of education is gradually moving from local government bureaucrats to Westminster bureaucrats, from left-wing politicians and educational ideologists to right-wing politicians and educational ideologists. One should not overestimate the extent of the move, but this is the direction. For genuine liberals this is no progress. Progress would be taking education away from all politicians, bureaucrats and self-seeking occupational groups and making teachers and lecturers directly accountable to the parents and students who buy their services.

Hence the importance of vouchers and loans for students. Both would enable the recipients to buy their education and encourage schools and colleges to respond to parental and student interests. "There would be no need for heavy-handed state concern over matters from teachers' standards to 'peace studies', schools which offer teachers - or courses which parents objected to - would go under."

Sir Keith cares too much. He is too committed: in the sense that he takes it upon himself to care for matters which others should care for. The care of one politician, however committed, can never substitute for the care of millions of parents for their children's school education and millions of students for their own higher education. It is neither right nor feasible that he should care on their behalf. But if they are to care - they must be involved and empowered. Not by some scheme to help a few unrepresentative, articulate parents dominate school governor committees but by giving the customers of schools and colleges their rights as customers.

Sir Keith has a new chance to change direction. There is talk of scrapping Burnham, the national committee which decides teachers' pay. He should do so. Teachers pay should be fixed by the school in which they work. Here, their worth is known without any clumsy bureaucratic apparatus. What measures could be taken to let each school spend its money as it sees fit. But the school can be freed from government control only if it becomes directly answerable to voucher-bearing parents.

Sir Keith should read Arthur Seldon's young men and remember the liberalism he helped to revive. If he would empower others to care, he could care less himself. It would be good to see him smile, again.

The author is director of the Social Affairs Unit.

moreover... Miles Kington

Winter ails and tonics

The last two or three weeks have seen the arrival of winter and, with it, the onset of a tremendous variety of coughs, splutters, sniffles and mysterious bugs. The medical profession does not seem to know what has hit it; not so the Moreover Pharmaceutical Laboratories, which have been working day and night to identify the various strains of illness.

Our tests are now over, and we proudly present a complete checklist of the latest things going round, many of them quite new in 1985.

Crippe Nouvelle. Symptoms are shivering, listlessness, stomach upsets and an aversion to ginger, raspberry and kiwi fruit. It is caused by over-exposure to nouvelle cuisine. The cause is not so much the food itself, which is all right in moderation, but the tension brought on by wondering if you will possibly get enough to satisfy your appetite, the doubt over whether what you have just been served is the main course or an appetiser and the chill on the stomach caused by constant sorbets between courses. This is aggravated by the strain of having to talk to the chef after the meal, as he goes from table to table fishing for compliments.

Cure: food. Botham's Boost. The symptoms of this new disease are leg-ache, foot-ache, carache and head colds. It started among the many journalists who are trying to follow Ian Botham on foot as he strides around the End, either covering his mammoth walk or attempting to talk to him to get material for their forthcoming biographies of him, but has spread to much of the population living the route. It is the only known disease found in a thin straight line from Cape Wrath to Exeter.

Cure: living in London or Belfast. Booker Neurosis. If you have got dizzy spells, faintness, light-headedness and an aversion to New Zealand mythology, you are probably suffering from Booker Neurosis. This is caused by indecision over whether to buy the latest Booker winner, knowing in your heart of hearts that you would rather buy the latest Jackie Collins. An advanced form of the disease is caused by buying and reading the Booker winner. An allied form of the ailment, known only among book-sellers, is caused by ordering vast quantities of the Booker winner and not selling them.

Cure: anything by J. L. Carr.

Kiwi Sickness. Confined entirely to Australians in Britain who read the cricket reports.

Cure: a couple of good fast bowlers, five new batsmen and a lot of rain.

Three-Day Summertime Flu. Symptoms are a period of intense, excited anticipation, followed by a few days of total flatness and exhaustion. This is caused by the foolish belief that when two leaders get together they will say or do something worth hearing about.

Cure: cut out newspapers and TV for a few days.

Contraflu. This is confined to people caught in motorway jams. The symptoms are intense fury and frustration, followed by severe cold and influenza. The cause is sitting in an over-heated car in a totally stationary snarl-up, then getting out to peer ahead to see what, if anything, is happening and what is causing it. The alternation between warmth and extreme cold outside is lethal. The cause of the motorway jam, if you're interested, is a coach two miles ahead whose driver was so scared of going too fast that he drove too slow and caused a pile-up.

Cure: British Rail.

Sore Nose, Symptom: sore nose. It is caused by using the same paper handkerchief more than once.

Cure: using a new paper handkerchief.

Beaujolais Nouvelle. Symptoms: a vague feeling of *déjà vu*, a curious inertia, a tendency to toy with one's food and arrange it on the side of the plate, a feeling that something important has recently happened and that one has missed it. It is caused by the fifteenth sighting of a sign saying "Le Beaujolais Nouveau est arrivé".

Cure: drink lots of beer.

Saturday Night Fever. Symptoms: a severe depression and apathy which strike at about 9pm on Saturday and vanish at about midnight. It is caused by the absence of *Match of the Day*.

Cure: watching snooker.

Winter Depression. Symptom: feeling absolutely depressed by the weather. This has at last been traced to the effect of watching all TV weathermen announcing bad weather ahead, and looking so bleakly cheerful about it.

Cure: hiring Eric Heffer to read the weather forecast.



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ALL FOR HILLSBOROUGH

In defence of the Anglo-Irish Agreement the Government now has nowhere to go but forward. When the Prime Minister rises in the Commons today at the start of what promises to be a bitter debate, she faces an Opposition which has developed on entirely predictable lines. If unionism's political representatives wish to turn the fight over the Hillsborough agreement into one over the deeper question of an elected government's authority to govern, then the Cabinet must be ready to meet that challenge.

The Government will naturally wish to defuse any such crisis before the stakes rise that high. The debate is the Government's opportunity to show that it has had the foresight and flexibility to plan for the protest and resistance which was always likely if any degree of Dublin involvement were to be given in the affairs of the north. No matter how often assurances about the security of the Union are repeated, the likelihood of such resistance remains.

A purely defensive Government strategy will not be sufficient; this agreement needs to be defended by more than just the stubborn strength for which Mrs Thatcher has won respect. Its merits need the most vigorous

"hard sell" which a united Cabinet can mount. In particular, Unionists need reminding that the Anglo-Irish Inter-Governmental Conference offers the prospect of further improvement: cross-border security co-ordination, inadequacies aplenty can still be found, but gradual improvements over the years in relations between north and south have slowly brought a commensurate toughening of the machinery of detection and conviction. The conference agenda offers an opportunity to build on that.

If improved security should be the content of the Government's promotional drive, its form also needs careful attention. There is a balance to be drawn between assertions or pronouncements which raise the temperature still higher and those that are best designed to persuade any non-aligned members of the majority community to give the deal a chance.

The best approach to this would be the broadest Government front. The bruised and beleaguered Mr Tom King should not be left to shoulder this burden on his own. Let some of his Cabinet colleagues and their junior ministers travel to Northern Ireland to underline both the Cabinet's commitment to British sovereignty and to making the

Anglo-Irish Agreement work within that framework. And why should this be left to Conservative ministers alone? If Mr Kinnoch is so fiercely determined to defend the Agreement against Unionist resistance (his party presided over the collapse of the Sunningdale power-sharing initiative in 1974) it would be fitting if the Labour leader of 1985 helped defend the agreement outside, as well as inside, Parliament. When Mr David Steel made a major speech in Belfast last year, he was the first British party leader to speak there for 12 years. Bipartisanship in the Commons has too often become an alibi for sloth and indifference.

The urgency of the need for the Government to mount the most vigorous defence possible lies in the high price of failure. Provisional Sinn Féin wait in the wings to exploit any collapse. It is they, and not the Official Unionists or Dr Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists, who will be the real winners if the agreement falters or folds. The Government now has a stake in the simple preservation of its modest rapprochement with the Republic. It does not have to promise that great things will emerge in the future as a result of its signing. What it must see, understand and act on, is the vital importance of its survival.

LESSONS OF LUQA

It is not so very long since Mrs Thatcher and Vice-president George Bush stood on the steps of 10 Downing Street and called on their allies to support a programme of measures designed to make life more difficult for the hijack gunmen. In response they received little more than token nods of agreement. Similar demands were repeated by a number of world leaders including Mrs Thatcher again and President Reagan at the Washington conference of the International Democratic Union (IDU) in late July. But the positive results have still to be seen.

The latest negative result of the failure to curb international terrorism occurred on Sunday night. Many questions remain to be asked after the disaster at Luqa airport in which 57 people died. The death of the hijackers themselves and the condition of the aircraft involved make it highly unlikely that we will ever find satisfactory answers to all of them. The tasks should not, however, be set aside.

One of these concerns airport security. Although it is still unclear how, when and where the terrorists were able to smuggle hand-guns and grenades on board the 737, the continuing ease with which they and others of their kind evade the elaborate security screens to which so many air travellers are now accustomed, can only cause concern among Western governments. Substantial investment

has already been made at Athens airport for example, stigmatised by last summer's TWA hijack as the point at which the terrorists then climbed aboard. But despite the introduction of the most sophisticated equipment, travellers have complained that security provisions here are still far from adequate.

The efficiency of security arrangements at the world's international airports is dangerously uneven and some of those which are most suspect are also the closest to the Middle East trouble spots. The Greek government is extremely sensitive to criticism of the facilities at Athens. But they have to face up to the geopolitical reality of their locations.

A second issue concerns the affiliations of the four Palestinians and a Syrian who carried out this particularly abhorrent attack. It has come embarrassingly soon after Yasser Arafat's Cairo statement denouncing international terrorism. At best it would seem to suggest that Mr Arafat's control over the increasingly fragmented Palestinian resistance movement is now very limited. Ironically it seems that the more he becomes involved in the peace process, the more determined the extremist factions are to display their revolutionary credentials. It follows that incidents of this kind call into question the feasibility of the process itself.

This has been the bloodiest outcome so far of any hijacking and has caused shock waves of

horror to reverberate round the civilized world. According to one eye-witness passengers were forced to leave the aircraft - then were shot in the back as they did so - to the evident delight of the people who shot them. This sounds like the work of psychopaths whose strategic objective is still uncertain.

The tactics employed by the Egyptian commandos at Luqa are clearly in need of critical examination. Reports suggest that their firing was wildly indiscriminate. They were clearly in an extraordinarily difficult position. With passenger after passenger being shot by the hijackers, the security authorities could hardly play for time. On this occasion things went badly wrong. But it was not the principle that was at fault but its practical implementation.

Israelis and Westerners among the passengers were apparently rounded up first by the hijackers. This should only reinforce the need for stronger co-operation between Western governments if they are to defeat the menace of international terrorism. The need for firm action is underlined by the very statistics. The number of such incidents in the first six months of this year equalled the total number for 1984 - suggesting another dangerous spiralling of a threat which we once thought had been brought under control. This was a dreadful crime against humanity and no effort must be spared to ensure that it is not repeated.

LISTEN TO THE MESSENGER

If the public had an unwavering aversion to the idea of commercials on the BBC, Mr Bob Worcester, as the ready spokesman of the pollsters, could expect a sudden spate of broad-casting engagements to fill his diary. In between records on Desert Island Discs he could expound on the widespread understanding of the idea of public service broadcasting. On the Jimmy Young programme he might offer an insight into the popular antipathy towards commercial breaks. The Terry Wogan Show would not let the week go by without including his pertinent observations about how the public supported consistently the idea that the BBC's part in the present television ecology was too precious to be tainted by advertisements for soap powder.

Yet Mr Worcester is absent from the screen. The reason is a simple one. He and his fellows in the opinion poll industry are the carriers of a message which the broadcasters do not want to spread, the news that the public like the idea of commercials on television. It is the lot of opinion polls to be applauded as prescient by those who support their findings and dismissed as trivial and irrelevant by those who come off worst when the public is asked for its views.

Mr Jeremy Hardie, a member of the Peacock Committee, seemed to embrace the consensus of the defeated recently when he described surveys discussing the public's attitudes towards advertising on the BBC as silly questions producing silly answers. "Of course, if you say 'Can we have advertising because we won't have to pay £58' every-body says yes," said Mr Hardie,

echoing a familiar sentiment in British political thinking, the idea that the public at large will always ditch ideas of principle in favour of matters of self-interest.

Yet, for those who are willing to seek out the facts, nothing could be further from the truth. Take two questions from a MORI poll about problems in society: if the Government proposed to increase income tax by a penny in the pound to pay for measures to protect wildlife and the environment, would you support the idea? Two to one were in favour. If the Government proposed to increase income tax by a penny in the pound to pay for measures to ensure that we use natural resources with less waste, would you be in favour? A total of 58 per cent said yes, while 25 per cent disagreed.

The public does not necessarily take a simplistic and greedy view of the questions it is asked on the street. In the Independent Broadcasting Authority's own library is a research paper produced by the organization which shows that viewers' ideas of who should pay for different television services depends more on a moral judgement than a financial one. Pay-per-use is seen as the most desirable way of financing ITV programmes videotaped by the public, a service which is currently available without direct charge. Where is the selfishness there?

Nevertheless the song of the broadcasting organizations continues to play. Its message is that the polls are based upon badly-phrased questions put to people who do not understand the full implications of what they are having to judge.

All of them? Since March last year there have been nine full-

scale polls which asked about advertising and the BBC. All have shown a large majority in favour of commercials. The penultimate, which was run by MORI for the Marketing Society, went into some fine detail about discovering whether people believed that commercials would ruin the quality of the Corporation. Sensibly, they thought not.

That outcome does not, of course, make it right to allow the BBC, in its present size and structure, to take advertising. It does, however, chip away at one of the most often used arguments against change.

The most recent poll, carried out by NOP for the Peacock Committee itself, confirms the public's unconcerned approach towards commercials and should, as Professor Peacock himself has urged, improve our knowledge of the public's perception of the problems of broadcasting finance. It should also help our understanding of the use of opinion polls themselves. There are occasions when the results of individual polls appear mischievous, though it is difficult, even in the event of the most volatile of by-elections, to prove that they have a direct effect on the outcome. The cumulative lesson of surveys carried out by different companies using a selection of questions to test public attitudes to a matter of importance demands greater attention, for it is the closest that any society has yet reached to the vox populi. Pollsters' art is now denied in certain quarters and the likes of Mr Worcester must, as messengers, carry the blame for the unwelcome messages they occasionally bear.

Dissatisfaction with Lloyd's resolve

From Mr Michael Nathanson

The Chairman of Lloyd's in his letter (November 15) seeks to dispel doubts raised in your City Editor's article (November 13) as to the true extent of Lloyd's resolve to regulate its affairs and sweep from its stable corruption of recent years. Unfortunately the complacency and pride with which Mr Miller recounts recent reforms are not justified by events over the summer months and in particular the manner in which Lloyd's has so far dealt with the financial devastation caused by the PCW affair.

Tens of millions of pounds have been stolen from investors at Lloyd's and yet no suggestion has been made as to how they are to be compensated. Indeed rather than providing assistance Lloyd's has obstructed those who, for many years, placed their entire trust in the society's good faith. A number of points are worth making.

1. Lloyd's has refused on numerous occasions to provide to the regulated names or their professional advisers relevant information. It has pleaded privilege and confidentiality and at times its affairs have appeared shrouded in a cloak of near-masonic secrecy.

2. It has taken Lloyd's more than three years to prosecute disciplinary proceedings and impose a fine upon the principal offender which in the context of the losses inflicted, may be no more than a gesture.

3. Notwithstanding its knowledge that it could not be so, Lloyd's steadfastly asserted up to the publication last week of the disciplinary findings that the present

underwriting losses sustained by the PCW names were caused by bad underwriting rather than fraud and were therefore solely the responsibility of the names.

4. Lloyd's last year tacitly supported a settlement under which the PCW names were required to give up all their rights to litigate. It now transpires that much of the information given at the time of the settlement was misleading.

5. Lloyd's has, despite the chairman's apparent written assurance, failed to protect the position of some 1,500 of its names in concluding a settlement with the Inland Revenue from which they have been excluded.

Lloyd's failure to fulfil the duties which it owes to its members also continues. This can give little reassurance to those who wish to see Lloyd's thrive nor to the 26,000 names who trust so completely in its good faith and integrity, nor ultimately to its policy holders.

The way in which Lloyd's now deals with the consequences of its past failings will indicate better its sincerity and resolve than any bold assertion by its chairman. Over the coming weeks it will have an opportunity to demonstrate whether it is capable of regaining the respect which it once commanded without the need for there to be imposed upon the conduct of its affairs external statutory regulation.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL NATHANSON,
The PCW 1985 Committee,
Broadgate House,
7 Eldon Street, EC2,
November 20.

Anglo-Irish pact

From Dr C. P. Kennedy

Sir, As an Ulsterman, and having read the Anglo-Irish agreement we have all been repeatedly told to do by Mr King, I can only say that the more I read it the more I am appalled by it.

The Secretary of State repeatedly tells the Ulster Unionists that the status of Northern Ireland has at last been guaranteed by the Republic of Ireland and points to this as a tremendous achievement. In my naivety I always thought Northern Ireland's position was completely protected by the United Kingdom Government - or so we had been told on numerous occasions - so this tremendous achievement is actually of little or no real significance in practical terms.

What I would really like to know, however, is to which Northern Ireland the guarantee refers - is it the pre-November 15 Northern Ireland or the post-November 15 Northern Ireland, because surely no one in all honesty could say that the status of the province was not dramatically changed on that date.

Prior to that we had direct British rule; now, however, it is to be British rule but with a very definite input and influence from a foreign government - a government which, incidentally, still claims jurisdiction over the territory of part of the United Kingdom.

Perhaps we could really say Mrs Thatcher had achieved something if she managed to get the republic to relinquish its claim - but very little is heard of that.

Yours faithfully,
C. P. KENNEDY,
20 Ranelagh Drive South,
Liverpool,
November 19.

From Mr David Smyth
Sir, I write as a person who has been embarrassed by the manner, style and timing of the Unionist response to the Anglo-Irish summit but as one who believes that the Unionists are right to be appalled.

Surely, one asks, what is terrible in allowing the Republic of Ireland to act as *amicus curiae* of the interests of Ulster's Catholics? Will such a unique role not help arrest the alienation of those Catholics from Ulster institutions and wean them away from support of the gun? Unfortunately, desirable as these objects are, this agreement will do nothing to further them. The reasons why are:

1. The deliberate lack of definition will either lead to sacrifice of principle or to major conflicts between the two governments on those areas of outstanding controversy, which include virtually everything of significance.

2. The agreement is fundamentally unfair to Unionists.

3. It has destroyed, in my view, any prospect of achieving a devolved government in Northern Ireland.

4. The only consensus that can be claimed for it in Northern Ireland is from the SDLP, a party that statistically does not speak for more than 20 per cent of the electorate.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SMYTH,
Lisburn,
November 15.

Nuremberg recalled

From Mr Merrin Gwyer Holroyd

Sir, "Forty years ago this morning the Nuremberg Trials began," said Frank Johnson in his most interesting article "Nuremberg: the judgement of history" on November 20.

Mr Johnson went on to say: "Most of the people of Nuremberg will spend the day as they spend most days." May I point out that Wednesday, November 20, was a national holiday? Appropriately enough, it was remembrance day - called *Buss und Betag*.

Yours faithfully,
MERRIN GWYER HOLROYD,
28 Cantwell Road, SE18,
November 21.

Patent convention

From Mr Amadee Turner, QC, MEP for Suffolk and SE Cambridgeshire (Conservative)

Sir, The letter of Mr Lawrence, President of the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents, published on November 18, calls for delaying the negotiations on the European Community Patent Convention.

He complains that the problems are difficult: he relies on the decision to leave Ireland and Denmark out of the arrangement as indicative of large constitutional problems. Five times he repeats that the proposals without these two countries produce a "mini" or "inferior" system.

I am a patent practitioner, too; never before have I heard British practitioners who deal primarily with the great industries of the USA, Japan, Germany, France and Britain base a case for doing nothing on such a small excuse. Surely never have British professional representatives hidden behind such a mini objection. Perhaps we should coin the expression "mini-England".

Mr Lawrence complains of a lack of warning and of being "rushed to a conclusion", yet he says that

essentially the proposals have been available since 1984. He refers to the package of which he is "highly critical"; yet this package is probably the highest victory ever obtained by British negotiators in the field of industrial property, viz., the agreement of all the Continental states to accept the British system of patent trials wholly alien to all of them.

Patents are his profession; so are trade marks; and with another breath he and all of us are calling for recognition of Britain's suitability and right to have the European Trade Mark Office. How can this claim fit in with his letter? It would be simplistic beyond belief to think that a "mini-England" in patents could be a European in trade marks.

Finally, he says that the Government would be unwise to have the courage to make an "unpopular political decision" threatening them with failure. Certainly, this claim makes a very specialist and technical interest to dizzy political heights, and it is a good thing that the present Government does not, of all things, lack courage.

Yours faithfully,
AMADEE TURNER,
3 Montrose Place, SW1.

Sunday trading

From the Chairman of Habitat/Mothercare, plc

Sir, If I was a churchman or a passionate advocate of "Keeping Sunday as a day of rest" I might reflect on the facts as I would not wish to be accused of hypocrisy in my campaign to stop certain shops opening for trade.

I would have to take note of the fact, disclosed by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, that about 40 per cent of the working population do not rest on Sundays and that offices and factories often open. I would then have to consider if the closure of pubs and restaurants, petrol stations, sporting activities and Sunday markets would seriously damage the quality of Sunday as a day of rest.

Furthermore, I would have to ponder on the curtailment of five

TV, radio and newspapers and whether the withdrawal of public services such as the police, gas, medical, transport, electrical and water supplies would upset our enjoyment of Sunday as a "special day".

It might also be concerned that museum shops, which are under the jurisdiction of the Government, open illegally and the cathedral shops and church bazaars also apparently break the law.

I would also then consider if Scotland, where Sunday opening is legal, had become a hell-hole of rampant capitalism or if in Sweden, admired for its democratic attitudes, small traders have been forced out of business because of Sunday opening.

I would also wonder if I had the God-given right to pontificate over 70 per cent of the population who

Putting museums on sound footing

From Mr Simon Hornby

Sir, The brouhaha about the V&A's scheme for voluntary contributions to museums for the museum forms part of the wider debate on how museums are to increase their income.

The main barrier against self-help has been the expectation that the Treasury will claw back or reduce grants by all, or at least part, of the money raised by a museum itself. If the new scheme of funding suggested by the Office of Arts and Libraries (OAL), which I understand would guarantee the annual grant at 95 per cent of the annual budget for each museum, is adopted, the disincentive for the money-raisers will largely disappear.

More talk of charging for entrance to museums sends liberal hands shooting into the air, although why a fair and sensibly presented voluntary scheme should offend it is hard to understand. A mere whisper about raising money by allowing museums to sell surplus and unseen museum pieces from their collections creates a scene fit for H. M. Ratnam.

Why? The main objections seem to be:

1. The policy will scare off potential donors and so reduce future gifts and legacies.

Solution: Let it be widely known that potential donors may choose to donate gifts inalienable, following the practice which has served the National Trust admirably for over 80 years.

2. Collections would be ravaged because of contemporary taste or the whims of a museum director.

Solution: Devise a series of safeguards, dictated by plain common sense, which would set up a screening system and which would include a final authority to approve any sale, a body such as the present export reviewing committee.

The proposal is straightforward; a process is required by which museums may be authorised to sell second-rate stuff from their collections in order to have more money to buy the first-rate objects which are likely to come on to the market. This surely is the practice of any good collector.

All that is needed is the will and some simple legislation. Why not get on with it before it's too late?

Yours faithfully,
SIMON HORNBY,
8 Ennismore Gardens, SW7.

Plight of refugees

From Lord Avebury

Sir, For 18 months past, more than 10,000 refugees from the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya have been living in rough camps just across the border into Papua New Guinea, with barely enough assistance to keep them alive. The PNG Government have not accorded refugee status to them and they face the constant risk of being forced back into the hands of their oppressors.

The PNG Government, perhaps out of fear of retaliation by Jakarta, have not asked for help either from the Commonwealth or the United Nations. They have not allowed the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to carry out his duty to protect these people and indeed, on October 12, the PNG authorities flew 12 of the refugees back to Irian Jaya in handcuffs.

I learn that since then they have been almost continuously interrogated, and there must be doubts even about the likelihood of their survival, unless the outside world takes a greater interest in their fate.

Now it is reported that 11 further refugees may be returned. PNG is not a signatory of the United Nations Convention on Refugees, so there is nothing to stop further groups being sent back at intervals except the moral pressure of international opinion, and particularly the advice of PNG's fellow members of the Commonwealth.

Our own Prime Minister was recently a guest in Jakarta; her influence with her host on that occasion could save 23 lives.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC AVEBURY,
House of Lords,
November 18.

Decline of Rugby

From Mr M. A. Girling

Sir, In your article, "Rugby after school" (November 16), your correspondent suggests that the decline of the sport in many schools in the comprehensive sector "contributed significantly to the decline of the sport nationally." It is indeed true that some schools who have provided a steady supply of players for club, county and country now produce very few, and that the reason for this is in many cases the reluctance of staff to administer or coach the game.

However, Rugby officials themselves must also shoulder their share of blame. Rugby at all levels has

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 26 1875

"It is just settled; you have it, Madam..." So Disraeli wrote to Queen Victoria when although opposed by many of his colleagues, he purchased, with the aid of the Rothschilds, nearly half of the shares in the Suez Canal Company held by the bankrupt Khedive. Parliament voted the money on February 20 1876.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE SUEZ CANAL

The following is a copy of a telegram received by the Bank of Egypt from the British Office at Alexandria: "Egyptian Government sold to English Government Suez Canal shares for £4,000,000 sterling. Minister is authorized to draw this amount on Rothschild at sight." The following may be stated to be the effect of this transaction: The Khedive having offered to sell to Her Majesty's Government the shares which he holds in the Suez Canal for the sum of four millions sterling, the Government have accepted the offer, subject to the approval of Parliament. The Khedive is the holder of about 177,000 shares out of the 400,000 into which the capital of the Company is divided.

Mary Anne Girling (1827-86) founded the 'children of God' in 1870 in London eventually settling in Hampshire. At one time the community numbered about 160 people but on her death all but six returned to their families.

THE SHAKERS - Mrs. Girling, the chief of the Shaker community in the New Forest, accompanied by four male and eight female disciples, is at present engaged upon a lecturing tour in Hampshire, with a view to raising funds for the erection of a wooden building to shelter the community during the winter months. On Tuesday evening Mother Girling conducted a service at the Portland-hall, Southsea, and although the prices of admission were 8d, 1s, and 2s, the hall was densely packed in every part. Mrs. Girling, dressed in a harmonious, well-sung hymn, she commenced with a brief address, in which she repudiated the name of "Shakers." She believed there was a sect of the name in America, but she had never been there and she had never seen the Shakers and her friends were more like the Quakers, but they preferred to be called the children of God, owing in him a common father. After an earnest prayer, and an anthem which, accompanied by a harmonium, was well sung by her followers on the platform, Mrs. Girling commenced her address. She said that 17 years ago she was brought to God, and since that time she had worked in his cause, and had reclaimed the drunkard, Sabbath-breaker, and liar, and they were still of her family, and she knew, as well as she knew anything, that they were all in their knees at that moment at home, praying for the success of that meeting. Her community lived together because they loved each other with a pure and unfeigned love, and they could not live apart. They did not labour after the common manner of the world because they did not love the things of the world, and it was wrong to labour for those whose only objects were counted with the world and the devil. They did not forbid marriage, but they did not encourage it. She had been charged with influencing her followers by means of spiritualism and mesmerism, but it was not so, God did not make known himself by means of chairs and tables. Her community was held together by love and the Holy Ghost working through her. Mrs. Girling declared most emphatically that Christ had manifested himself to her seven years ago in the flesh as she saw the evidence before her, but as an eternal presence form. A right of Him was worth all the gold upon earth, and she would willingly subject herself to persecution and torture to see Him again. The present generation, she said, was the last before the second coming of Christ, and her voice would be the last echo to call sinners to repentance. Near the close of her address, while she was defending the dancing of her followers on the ground that they had the best right to dance seeing that they possessed the greatest happiness, one of the girls rose with a low cry and commenced singing and whirling on the platform. After a time she was joined by another girl. The movements were exceedingly graceful, and free from contortion of any kind. The dancing continued for about a quarter of an hour, and no ill effects seem to ensue on the substance of the ecstasy.

become very much a matter of "win at all costs" and thus a close physical contest has taken the place of skilful play.

This emphasis on the physical game is now affecting the schools themselves who, for fear of injury, have recommended that men's teams should not be played, that old boys' sides should not include any player over 21 years old, and even in house matches the recommendation is that the seven-a-side game should take the place of the full fifteen. Is it then any wonder that schools in general are beginning to ask if the game is worth playing?

The Rugby Union must first put its own house in order and remember that its founder, William Webb Ellis, rather than continue playing in a game in which two sides en bloc tried to propel the ball to their opponent's line, actually "picked up the ball and ran with it." Yours faithfully,
M. A. GIRLING,
Dean Close School,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire,
November 18.

End of the road

From Mr W. K. Mackenzie

Sir, Many years ago a public utility in Camborne, Cornwall, warned travellers about road works with a sign ROAD OPEN. In Cornwall, I found this to be literally true. With my car I fell into the trench.

Yours faithfully,
W. K. MACKENZIE,
15 Myton Crofts,
Learmonth Spa,
Warwickshire,
November 22.

NEXT YEAR, THE BRITISH ECONOMY WILL BE AFFECTED BY WHAT GOES ON INSIDE THE SENATE, THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND THIS SHEEP'S STOMACH.

This sheep consumes glass. And a lot healthier she is for it, too.

What sets her (and flocks of other sheep) apart from her less fortunate cousins is a Pilkington product called Cosecure, marketed by Coopers Animal Health Limited.

Cosecure is a pellet made from soluble glass. Incorporating 3 essential trace elements and fed to livestock once a year, it stays in the stomach for the entire 12 months.

Gradually it safely dissolves and releases the trace elements at exactly the rate the sheep needs them.

But Cosecure doesn't only make sheep healthier.

It'll provide a shot in the arm for the British economy, too – because although it may sound like a gimmick, it's badly needed by farmers in Britain and abroad.

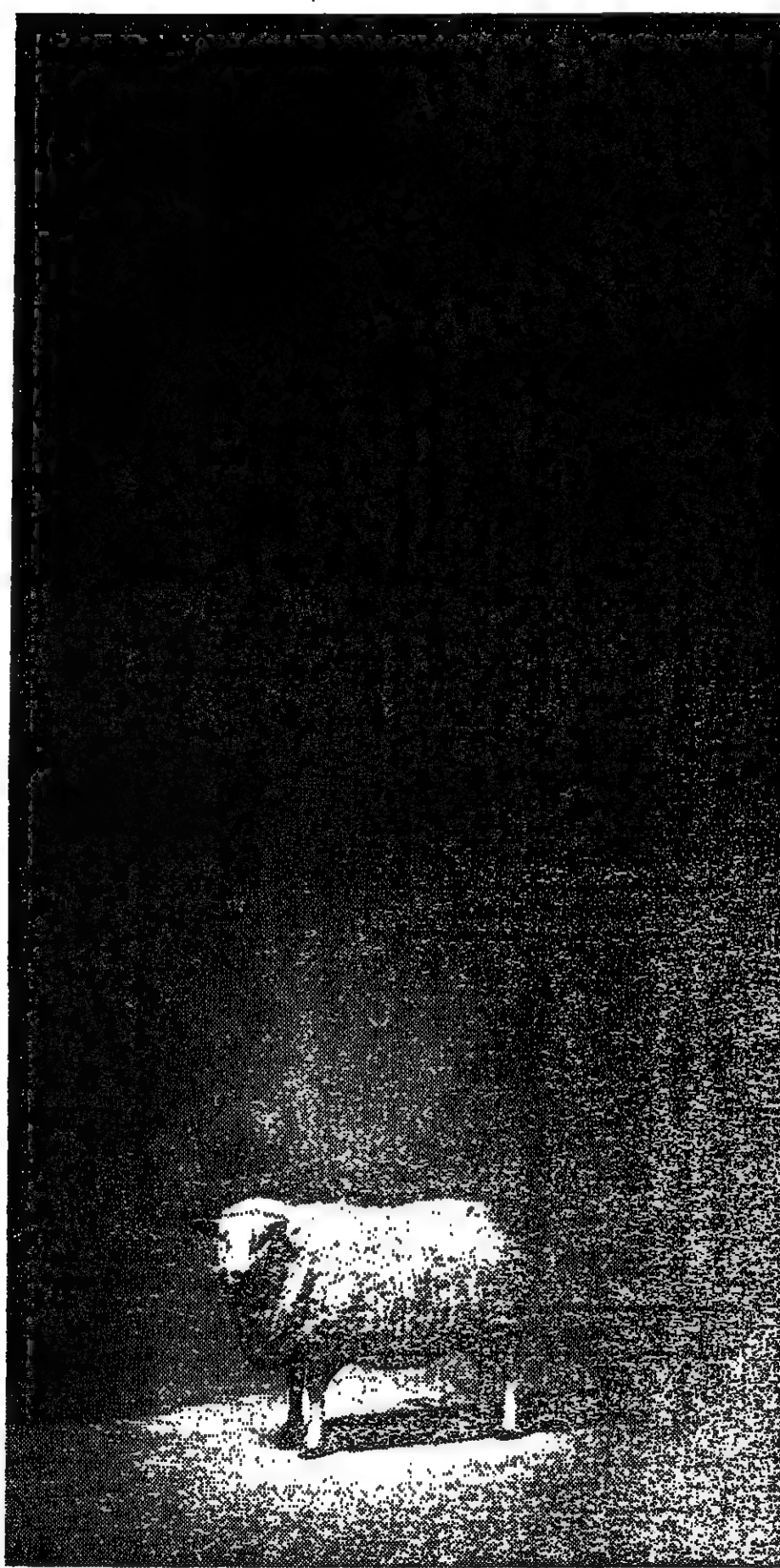
But controlled release glass also has vast potential in the drug industry, in oil, in agrochemicals, shipping, sanitation and building.

Exciting though the idea of soluble glass is, we're well aware that one product doesn't make a company.

But the tiny family business from St Helens which started making windows during The Industrial Revolution now has an enormous range of products, giving us a worldwide turnover of over £1,200,000,000.

Take, for example, our Reactolite Rapide sunglasses, a Pilkington invention which incredibly has three quarters of the Japanese market.

A product Pilkington can put alongside



parts for satellites, parts for lasers and solar cells, for fibre optics and Concorde. Even for the Popemobile.

And we have high hopes for Cemfil glass fibre, which is better qualified to replace asbestos than any other material currently available.

Of course, not all of Pilkington's products will make sheep any healthier.

But every one's a tonic for Britain's economy.



PILKINGTON

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186	Marion Dashi	140	-	-	-	-
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SHOES AND LEATHER

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99	Don Rial	107	+	5	5.0	5.0	5.0
100	Don Rial	107	+	5	5.0	5.0	5.0
101	Don Rial	107	+	5	5.0	5.0	5.0
102	Don Rial	107	+	5	5.0	5.0	5.0
103	Don Rial	107	+	5	5.0	5.0	5.0
104	Don Rial	107	+	5	5.0	5.0	5.0
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155	Don Rial	107	+	5	5.0	5.0	5.0
156	Don Rial	107	+	5	5.0	5.0	5.0
157	Don Rial	107	+	5	5.0	5.0	5.0
158	Don Rial	107	+	5	5.0	5.0	5.0
159	Don Rial	107	+	5	5.0	5.0	5.0

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Sir Terence Superman in another quantum leap

Monday is an odd day to announce a merger. It suggests clandestine weekend meetings in obscure country hotels, the fear of leaks and profound apprehension about lurking predators. But yesterday the professionals argued that a Monday - and the opening day of the new account at that - which saw two major mergers worth jointly well over £4 billion represented something deeply symbolic. One trader recounted how he ringed the day Burmah collapsed as marking the end of the bear market of the early 70s. Yesterday he put a similar cross against November 25 1985 - as the day when Habitat-Mothercare came for British Home Stores, and Imperial for United Biscuits - as the high water mark of the greatest bull market London has so far seen.

We shall see. The symbolism of the two mergers is perhaps far closer to home. Both proposed deals have a common thread of weakness and vulnerability running through them, which the stock market, at its current level, a by-product of the Thatcher revolution, has made ultimately unsustainable. Woe to the conquered is the penalty for finishing second in the new business groupings now emerging in Britain.

Exclusive club

This shows itself with great clarity in the proposed merger between British Home Stores and Habitat-Mothercare. The high street retailing club is fast becoming highly exclusive, as the weak are absorbed by the strong in the quest for more selling space, faster throughput, better terms from suppliers, and improved computer technology at point of sale and in the storeroom.

Putting BHS and Habitat-Mothercare together will create a group with combined annual sales of well over £1 billion; more than five million square feet of town centre selling space; six major high street trading formats (BHS, Habitat, Mothercare, Richards, Now, Heals).

The group will have more than one million square feet of overseas selling space, plus a half million square feet of superstore retail space through the BHS involvement with Sainsbury in the joint SavaCentre venture.

The deal is extraordinary in that it brings together a high proportion of major names in British retailing, as well as nearly all the important retailing concepts. Through Habitat, Sir Terence Conran still has an option to take up a fifth of the Debenhams' selling space in the arrangement he negotiated with Ralph Halpern of Burton Group before Burton's successful bid. At the other end of the retailing spectrum, BHS is involved in out-of-town trading with J. Sainsbury, which professed itself delighted yesterday with the merger. Meanwhile, the mere fact of putting together BHS and Habitat Mothercare will create ripples which should reach both Marks & Spencer, BHS' old trading rivals

in the high street, and Woolworths, whose lively so closely resembles the BHS facia.

The terms of the deal favour Habitat-Mothercare. The 33 per cent income benefit in the current year for Habitat shareholders contrasts with a 14 per cent gain for BHS shareholders. Sir Terence Conran is to become chairman and chief executive of the new group, even though Habitat-Mothercare will hold only some 45 per cent of the equity. The success of the link-up is predicated on Sir Terence's ability to engineer considerable benefits from the BHS chain, which, after a spell of vigour, has become again a by-word for solid rather than inspired management.

BHS has been growing far more slowly than Habitat-Mothercare. In the early 80s, BHS was making £44 million pretax profits, and last year the figure was £64 million, on capital employed of £263 million. Roughly, over the same period, Habitat profits have risen tenfold, while capital employed has risen from about £10 million to well over £165 million. BHS sales a square foot are about £180, and far lower than Habitat returns. The challenge for Sir Terence is clear.

The enlarged group would still be small, compared with Marks and Spencer, with a capital employed of around £1½ billion, and annual sales of well over £3 billion. Sir Terence is hoping to achieve what Stanley Kalms secured through his bid for Currys - a quantum leap in profits and scale of operation through acquiring a solid but slightly old-fashioned retail chain. Not surprisingly Morgan Grenfell, which orchestrated the Dixons' bid, is acting for Habitat. Roger Seelig, of both the merchant bank and the Habitat board has learned a thing or two in the past 12 months. This is an agreed merger, not a messy takeover.

Weakness is also the *leitmotiv* of the possible link-up between Imperial Group and United Biscuits. But *allegro con brio* it the tempo here, rather than *moderato cantabile*. Imperial, mauled by its US experience, has just received the \$314 million from the sale of the Howard Johnson hotel chain, and all the talk in the market is of an impending swoop on Imperial by Hanson Trust.

United Biscuits is a strange bedfellow for Imperial, given that United, too, has had its problems with the cookie war in America. United is also in the throes of management reorganisation, and it, too, has been a subject of persistent bid speculation.

Two victims of the storm huddling together for protection was how the market chose to interpret yesterday's hurried and brief statement which emerged yesterday. It remains to be seen whether Lord Hanson has anything to add.

Prospect of dollar slide grows as yen gathers strength

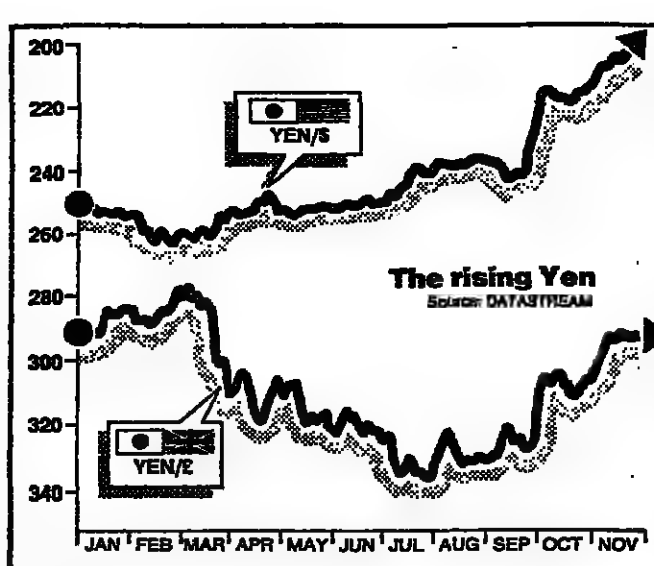
By Richard Thomson and David Watts

The yen briefly broke through the important Y200 point against the dollar yesterday, when the dollar traded weakly against most international currencies. At the same time sterling climbed to its highest level against the dollar since spring last year.

The dollar opened on Far East markets near the Y200 mark yesterday morning, dipping to 199.8 for a short time. Market analysts see the Y200 level as a crucial support point: if the dollar falls below that level for two or three days experts believe it will continue to fall sharply. In London, however, the dollar failed to fall below Y200, trading in a band between Y200.70 and Y200.20.

The Governor of the Bank of Japan, Mr Satoshi Sumit, said yesterday that the market appeared to be gradually accepting a stronger yen. But for the first time since the Group of Five meeting in New York in late September, a leading manufacturer criticized the speed of the yen's appreciation, which has been hitting small and medium sized firms.

Mr Takashi Ishihara, chairman of Nissan Motors - one of



Japan's largest car exporters - said the Y200 level came too quickly. He had hoped that a rate of Y210 would prevail for some time, adding that manufacturers could not be expected to bear the full burden of the adverse effects of the yen's appreciation. Dealers as well as customers should bear part of it, he said.

The last time the dollar fell below Y200 was in January 1981. Dealers attributed the dollar's recovery during the day to profit-taking, but said that lack of buying from importers had prevented it from bouncing back further. Some felt that a renewed pledge from monetary authorities on continued intervention was needed to push the

dollar permanently below Y200.

The dollar's weakness was encouraged by hopes of lower US interest rates and by the improved atmosphere between East and West after last week's summit in Geneva. This enabled sterling to reach \$1.4694 during trading in London yesterday.

Sterling's strength started in Far East markets encouraged by last week's firmer oil prices. In London, the Government's announcement of a better than expected £400 current account surplus helped the currency to rise further, though some dealers were surprised at its strength.

Sterling's trade-weighted index - the measure against a basket of currencies - reached 80.8 during the day, up from Friday's close of 80.1. It fell back slightly in the afternoon, however, to close at 80.6.

The pound moved little against the mark, closing in London at DM3.75 compared with DM3.73 at Friday's close. The mark also held steady against the dollar, trading in New York at around DM2.5660 for most of the day.

European Ferries 'may join winning Channel consortium'

By Clare Dobie

European Ferries Group, the owner of Townsend Thoresen, may join one of the consortia hoping to build a fixed link across the English Channel.

The company has been a leading campaigner against a tunnel or bridge but its chairman, Mr Ken Siddle, said yesterday that it would review its position if, as expected, the project is approved in the new year.

Mr Siddle said that many ferry services would cease once the fixed link is in operation. Only the routes from Dover would be viable, he said. This implies the closure of passenger facilities at ports on the south coast such as Portsmouth and Weymouth.



Ken Siddle: "Many ferry services could cease"

If the fixed link is approved despite these arguments, European Ferries would consider joining the successful bidder.

European Ferries could contribute its knowledge on transporting passengers and freight across the Channel.

European Ferries is investing heavily in new ferries. It recently announced that it had ordered two large ferries costing £35 million each. It also is "stretching" or increasing the capacity of four other vessels.

The Government is due to announce its choice for the fixed link in January. The principal contenders include Europort, the Channel Tunnel Europort and Eurobridge. Sealink, the main rival to Townsend Thoresen, has put forward its own scheme, called Expressway, which incorporates a road and rail scheme.

Move for the Fab Four flop

By Ian Griffiths

The Beatles have flopped in Liverpool and are being sent to London where they may have a better chance of making a living. The people of Liverpool have voted the Beatles City exhibition of music and memorabilia a resounding failure.

The exhibition was set up less than two years ago as a permanent tribute to the exploits of the Fab Four. However, it is losing so much money that the owner, Radio City, the Liverpool independent radio station, has been forced to sell.

The exhibition will move to London in the next few months, once a home for it has been found.

The new owner is British but its identity remains a secret. Nor has the purchase price been disclosed.

About 100,000 visitors a year made the pilgrimage to the exhibition. However, most were foreign tourists, and if all goes well it should attract more visitors in London.

The exhibition cost £1 million to stage. Most of the money came from Radio City, paid for from the proceeds of its floatation on the USM. However, there was some financial help from local authorities and tourist agencies.

Beatles City has never made money and has largely been responsible for driving Radio City into the red. Yesterday the radio station reported a pre-tax loss of £181,000 for the year to September 30, down from a profit of £261,000.

The company also suffered from a drop in advertising revenue caused by the economic and other difficulties on Merseyside. Turnover fell to £2.8 million from £3.7 million. No dividend will be paid.

Steinberg agrees to limit shares in new Mercury

By William Kay, City Editor

Mr Saul Steinberg, the American financier, yesterday watered down his stated ambition to own up to 20 per cent of Mercury Securities, parent company of the City merchant bank, S. G. Warburg.

Reliance Group, the US insurance company headed by Mr Steinberg, announced that it and its affiliates would limit their aggregate holdings in Mercury's shares to less than 10 per cent after the implementation of the proposed four-way merger of Mercury with the stockbrokers, Rowe and Pimms and Milsons & Co, and the jobbers Akroyd and Smithers.

This means that Reliance does not have to sell any of its existing 10.7 per cent stake in Mercury, as the merger will dilute that to less than 10 per cent.

The compromise "clarification" has been hammered out after a week of intensive talks. Last week Mr David Scholey, the chairman of Mercury, said that no one should hold more than 10 per cent of the shares of a company like Mercury.

Last night Mr Scholey and Mr Steinberg said they were pleased with the understanding

Hilldown buys Needlers for £3.4 million

By Lawrence Lever

Hilldown Holdings, the expansionist food, furniture and office equipment group, has made an agreed £3.4 million bid for Needlers, the Hull confectionary manufacturer.

The terms of the bid are 166p cash a Needlers ordinary share. Hilldown has already received irrevocable acceptances for 54.2 per cent of Needlers' ordinary shares.

Mr Raymond Needler, chairman and managing director of Needlers, said yesterday that he thought the Hilldown bid would strengthen Needlers' capacity to compete with the big confectionary manufacturers.

Hilldown yesterday declared unconditional its £2.7 million offer for Walker & Homers Group the South Wales furniture manufacturer. Hilldown has received acceptances representing 70.7 per cent of Walker & Homers' ordinary shares.

The Stockton effect spreads

The Institute of Fiscal Studies has become (along with Lord Stockton) the most damaging critic of the Government's privatization programme. Last night, its director, John Kay stepped up the attack in a lecture to the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.

The IFS complaint, in a nutshell, is that ministers have abandoned the search for market solutions that first fired the privatization programme. Instead of using the ending of state monopolies to liberalize markets and promote more competition for customers, ministers have, according to Mr Kay, succumbed to "pressure from the management of the industries concerned, particularly gas and airports". Without competition, regulatory agencies have to be interposed between the privatized corporations and the Government severely diluting the original concept.

"It should be clearly understood," he contended, "that so long as these

industries are privatized in their present form they are not, and cannot be, commercial organizations like private firms. British Gas and British Airports cannot be established on the basis of concerns whose primary objective is profit maximization."

If the privatized organizations are still planning agencies for industries as in the case of airports or gas, "it makes no sense to privatize the planning agency."

This is an exaggeration. The power of competition for capital in the market should not be underestimated. And as John Moore, the Financial Secretary, to the Treasury has pointed out, consumer protection is likely to be better in practice under arms-length regulation than under theoretical public control and accountability even if regulatory agencies are far from perfect.

The central point remains. In both gas and airports, ready measures to promote competition are being ignored and artificial elements of monopoly retained.

Gatt scales down rise in world trade to 3%

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

World trade growth by volume this year will be less than 3 per cent above the 1984 figure, economists of the Geneva Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) said yesterday as the world trade body opened its annual session, attended by delegates from more than 70 of its 90 member nations.

The latest Gatt figure compares with its earlier estimate of up to 5.5 per cent - reduced in September to 4 per cent.

This announcement, by the chairman, Mr Felipe Jaramillo, of Colombia, as he opened the 41st session, served to underline the necessity of agreement on

setting up a committee to work out an agenda for a new round of multi-lateral negotiations for further liberalizing world trade.

This will be the eighth since Gatt was created 38 years ago. The last one was the Tokyo round ending in 1973. Efforts for an accord on the preparatory committee, so that the session could be presented with a *fait accompli*, were stymied by continuing opposition on the part of some developing countries, principally Brazil, India and Argentina, to the inclusion on the agenda of services, including telecommunications, insurance and transport.

Bairstow to name bidder

Bairstow Eves, the first company of residential estate agents to go public is expected to announce today that it has agreed a merger with Hambros Bank, the merchant banking operation, writes Judith Hanley, Commercial Property Correspondent.

Bairstow's shares were suspended yesterday at the company's request. The estate agent was valued

at £77 million on Friday when the approach was made by Hambros but it is believed there was more than one bidder. Barclays Bank and the Midland were also tipped as potential buyers. Meanwhile, Bairstow has sold its stake in Connells, a rival quoted company of estate agents. The holding, just under five per cent, has been placed with the Legal & General Group.

£8.5m grant

The European Commission allocated £8.5 million yesterday to help to pay for redundancies among British steel and coal workers. The money is in the form of "readaptation grants" from the European Coal and Steel Community.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS		MAIN PRICE CHANGES		CURRENCIES	
FT Ind Ord	1146.9 (+11.6)	Sutcliffe, Spkmm	45p +8p	Friday's close and change on week	
FT All Share	702.06 (+0.13)	Gabriel	122p +15p	London:	
FT Govt Securities	1,455.5 (+4.5)	Audiotronic	4p +0.5p	£: \$1.4820 (+0.0078)	
FT-SE 100	26,000	Gent (SR)	70p +8p	£: DM 3.7497 (+0.0052)	
Dataseam USM	109.32 (+0.41)	Ass. Special Sits.	80p +5p	£: SwFr 3.0709 (+0.0093)	
New York		United Biscuits	266p +27p	£: FF 11.4248 (+0.0157)	
Dow Jones	1,454.81 (-8.52)	Rotaprint	5p +0.50p	10 Yen: £3.43 (-1.2)	
Tokyo		Audio Fidelity	80p +8p	Index: 80.8 (+0.5)	
Nikkei Dow	12,783.39 (+24.06)	Neelco	161p +10p	New York (Latest):	
Hong Kong		Brit. Home Stores	408p +36p	£: \$1.4615	
Hang Seng	1,736.49 (+23.67)	Cpu Computers	23p +2p	£: DM 2.5660	
Amsterdam Gen	229.2 (+0.5)	Bedfordshire Group	92p +7p	Index: 127.1 (-0.4)	
Sydney: AO	1,000.5 (+8.9)	Smith St. Aubyn	40p +3p	3-month Interbank 11½-11¾%	
Frankfurt		Regalton Props.	405p +30p	3-month Treasury Bills 7.20-7.19%	
Commerzbank	1,774.5 (+1.1)	Piston Int.	183p +12p	buying rate 11½-11¾%	
Brunswick		ICC Oil Services	7p +0.50p	US:	
General	986.38 (+4.02)	Cook Wm (Sheffield)	71p +5p	Prime Rate 9.50%	
Paris: CAC	248.3 (+1.7)	Westland	71p +5p	Federal Funds 7¾%	
Zurich		Century Schweppes	158p +8p	3-month Treasury Bills 7.20-7.19%	
SKA General	454.50 (+0.40)	Microline	30p +2p	30-year bond price 99½-99%	
		Falcon Inds.	31p +2p		
		Wolsley-Hughes	580p +37p		
GOLD		FALLS:		INTEREST RATES	
London fixing:		Tyzaok(W) & Turner	78p -15p	London:	
am \$330.50m-\$330.20		Radio City "A" NV	31p -5p	Bank Base: 11¼%	
close \$330.75-\$331.25	(2226.25-226.75)	Intavis Video	4.50p -0.50p	3-month eligible bills:	
New York:		Apricot Computer	59p -5p	buying rate 11½-11¾%	
Comex (Latest) \$330.45				US:	

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NEWS BACKGROUND

How the Conran magic wand could transform BHS

The merger between Habitat 66 and British Home Stores marks the latest milestone in the apparently inexorable rise of Sir Terence Conran in the country's high streets.

He has already developed his group from one trendy store in London's Fulham Road into a wide-ranging retail chain taking in wastepaper bins, cushions, furniture, baby rompers, and women's fashions.

Now he is accepting the challenge of one of Britain's most solid and reliable household goods store networks into yet another version of the Conran vision of how we all ought to be living - and spending.

For years British Home Stores has suffered and survived from its stock market image as the nearest rival to Marks and Spencer. There is no doubt that M & S became an obsession at BHS's ultra-functional head office opposite Marylebone Station.

It was frequently referred to as "another company in the high street", not to be mentioned by name except in hushed tones and then only accompanied by a nervous laugh.

It was a game BHS could not win. It was always destined to come second to M & S in any case, an unfair comparison. But the alleged rivalry also had the advantage of giving BHS a little of the reflected glow from the M & S halo.

The real disadvantage, however, has been that the comparison prevented the top management at BHS from thinking independently. M & S was its best line and its yardstick of success. Such rigidity of thinking was not helped by the group's recent habit of appointing former captains of industry to be chairman.

Admirable as Sir Mark Turner, Jack Callard and Sir Maurice Hodgson have proved, they were not in the best position to challenge their executive's proposals, let alone lead BHS in new directions when the retailing industry has been going through its most

HOW THEY COMPARE			
Market Capitalization	Turnover	Profit	Number of stores
BHS	850	550	128
Habitat	667	446	560

radical change since the department store concept was imported from the US early this century.

Sir Terence, by contrast, comes from a different generation and is very much his own man. He has shown that he finds difficulty in working with, let alone for, others, except on a strictly arm's-length contract.

His most unfortunate experience was his attempt to merge Habitat with Ryman, the stationers, in the early 1970s.

Although he insists that he will not make radical changes at BHS, he has left his mark on every retailing group with which he has been associated.

Sir Terence freshened up what had become a tired looking "concept" chain that had lost impetus as its joint founder, Mr Selim Zilkha, developed other interests. The other joint founder, Sir James Goldsmith, had left in the early days.

Conran then bestowed his flair on J. Hepworth, a menswear group which had previously suffered from the slump in demand for suits. He inspired the Next idea for shops selling women's clothes, a move which has done so much to transform the company's financial fortunes under the subsequent guidance of Mr George Davies, that it has now become the group's name.

But that was a pure chairmanship role, which Sir Terence gave up to pursue his ambition that the Habitat group should itself branch into women's fashions. That opportunity came when the attempted independent management buyout of Richard Shops foundered, enabling Conran to step in, rename the outlets Richards and put his design teams into the stores.

Along the way, conscious that

his original Habitat shopping audience was growing past the age of impulse buys, he picked up Heal's furniture stores, which had been privately owned and jealously guarded by the Heal family.

Only Sir Terence had the credibility and integrity to persuade the family to part with their inheritance. He has certainly made changes, but in

It has long been recognised that this corner of retailing can bring tremendous financial windfalls. Folklore in the trade long held that Great Universal Stores, the past masters of mail order, makes more out of the credit side of the business than they do on the goods themselves.

If an efficient and workable "remote" operation can be developed, then it could have a significant impact on the Habitat business, whose catalogue is highly esteemed in fashionable parts of Britain's leading cities, but which has never been fully exploited.

BHS - as it will probably be known rather than the cumbersome full name - also has the power of bulk buying.

We can expect at least some products to appear in both BHS and Habitat to make use of this power as well as testing to see what the BHS audience will find palatable from Sir Terence's more eclectic tastes.

A fascinating consequence of the merger will be the response of the new group's high street rivals. It is likely to spur an acceleration in M & S's own switch towards a more fashion-conscious approach. The Burton Group, where Sir Terence still has a share option as a spinoff from his collaboration in Burton's takeover of Debenhams, will not be able to stand idly by, either.

The main benefit of the merger will be fresh pair of eyes

such a way as to avoid offending the traditional customer.

That will be an important consideration at BHS, which operates at a level of the market where value for money is paramount and too much overt display of design flair may be mistrusted. It is, in a way, a more subtle problem than Sir Terence has faced before.

His primary attack will be on the packaging and presentation of goods, rather than any immediate attempt to change the range of goods. That will come later, after a long and careful period of market research.

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planning to sell the majority of its shops and turn itself into a property and investment group.

The planned get-together between oil minnows, Petrol and Berkeley Exploration, first mentioned in these columns, has come unstuck. The companies announced yesterday that merger talks had been called off, leaving Petrol a worse off at 125p and the USM-United States Marine at 2p better at 90p. Elsewhere in oils, British was 10p up at one stage before settling at 240p, up 5p, while Barmah improved 5p at 306p. Tricentrol lost more ground, 3p down on the day at 160p.

Babstow Eves, hilly tipped to be on the brink of being taken over by Hambros after announcement of bid talks, was suspended at 152p, down 4p, pending further details. Canals was at an unchanged 165p and the other quoted estate agents, Mann & Company, fell 2p at 236p.

Dawson International was 4p ahead at 210p ahead of half-time figures on Thursday, while elsewhere in textiles Stroud Riley weakened 2p at 64p.

British Aerospace rose 15p to 480p. Top management is thought to have launched in the City yesterday and on Monday analysts are due to visit the Airbus operations in France. There are hopes of a significant new order - possibly from Japan - being announced.

ML Holdings improved 8p to 338p following an analysis meeting.

Asset Special Situations Trust, where Mr Brian Banks, the investment manager, and British Land, have appeared on the scene improved 5p to 80p. A 10-cent shareholding went through the market at around 72p. Fiske & Co., the broker, is thought to have completed the business.

Three USM newcomers did well. Millward Brown, placed at

to see what the BHS customer really wants. The difficulty will lie in catering for a wider span of ages and classes of customer.

What will the BHS management bring to the party? That is harder to quantify. The statement accompanying news of the merger made reference to mail order.

Mr Dennis Cassidy the BHS chief executive, who will be the new groups managing director, is a great proponent of what he calls "remote shopping", embracing home shopping and marketing via TV screens, Prestel and other videotext systems.

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Three USM newcomers did well. Millward Brown, placed at

Rank leads race for Thorn EMI division

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

The Rank Organisation is emerging as the front runner in Thorn EMI's auction of its Screen Entertainment division.

About 30 companies expressed an initial interest when the ABC cinema chain and EMI film studio business was put up for sale last month and these have now been cut to a short list of six.

Rank is believed to be the only one that has come forward with an offer near the £100 million or so that Thorn EMI wants for the division.

The management bid being organized by Screen Entertainment's Mr Gary Darvall, with help from County Bank, falls significantly short of the asking price, and it is thought unlikely that Mr Darvall will be able to raise the extra money.

Other leading contenders include Cannon, an American group which produced the film *Death Wish*, and owns the Classic chain of cinemas in Britain, and Mr Gerald Ross's Heron Corporation.

Contrary to speculation at the weekend, Television South is not in the running, and the interest by Mr Robert Maxwell, Mirror Group Newspapers' publisher, is described by one insider as "barely serious".

Rank was defeated at the last minute in the recent sale by Grand Metropolitan of Mecca Leisure and Warner Holidays. Rank put in a bid worth £100 million but the division was sold last week to a management consortium for £95 million.

One possible obstacle to a bid by Rank for Screen Entertainment is a reference to the Monopolies Commission.

Rank already owns 77 Odeon cinemas in Britain, Pinewood film studios and one of the largest video duplication businesses in Europe.

Rank's video distribution business in Britain also overlaps with that of Thorn EMI. Thorn EMI puts the book value of Screen Entertainment at £100 million, consisting of £35 million for film studios, £5 million for EMI film studios and £60 million for the film and video library.

William Kay City Editor

Given the upward mobility of the stores sector yesterday, there was one direction in which shares in Dunhill Holdings, the group for the upstart mobile, could go. The price added 17p to 393p as it was swept away on a wave of euphoria which rather overshadowed excellent interim figures.

Half-year pretax profits of £8 million up £2.2 million from £5.8 million deserved a better fate than to be engulfed in the general confusion of yesterday's trading in the sector.

With the high street climate of endless takeovers and mergers, Dunhill's great strength is its stability and certainty. Yesterday's results showed quite clearly that there is still a place for these virtues, along with quality and service, and that beautiful does not always have to be big.

The Dunhill stores, which number no more than 125 worldwide, continued to show good growth with the fashion lines showing a particularly impressive increase. This has been backed by substantial promotional expenditure while hitting margins, has its compensation through increased volumes.

The group is now preparing itself for a major offensive in the all-important United States market. In July Dunhill Tailored Clothes in the US was bought, not only eliminating dual ownership of the trademark but also clearing the way for a more specific marketing campaign.

It was not just the Dunhill chain which thrived. The Montblanc luxury pen company from Germany also recorded profits and sales growth. Most of the other retail operations acquired with Causton, gearing will come down to 30 per cent against a hefty 99 per cent after Causton was bought. Interest charges, at 35 per cent of operating profit in the first half, will be drastically reduced in the second half.

The retail operations will give an exaggerated seasonal bias to Opax's results this year. Taking a cautious view of Christmas trading, full-year profits should come out at £4.8 million against £2.7 million and could top £5 million if trading is very buoyant.

After an intensive three-year acquisition programme, Norton Opax now appears keen to consolidate its gains and squeeze more out of its existing base. If opportunities arise it will grab them, but it is not actively seeking them.

Ironically, Dunhill's ciga-

Dunhill remains quite subdued about its French fashion and perfume acquisition. Chloe, that made a small contribution but will take some time to be fully integrated. There is certainly scope for it to become an important part of the group as its ranges are marketed more effectively, in the Dunhill style, particularly to department stores.

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rette royalties, with which the group is perhaps more readily associated, give the least cause for excitement. Although Rothmans International, which owns 50.6 per cent of the Dunhill Group, is reported to have no plans to change its stake, the time may be approaching when it is prepared to reduce the level of its investment and allow the offshoot to float more freely.

With net cash of around £18 million and rising, Dunhill has the resources to go it alone with its ambitious acquisition and marketing plans. The shares could still go higher.

There is still more to be saved from good housekeeping exercises, but with a positive gross cash flow of £5 million, most efforts are going into re-equipping to keep up with or ahead of the latest developments in its specialist and expanding areas of printing and publishing.

The prospective p/e ratio taking the cautious view, is 14.6, which is not too demanding given the growth record and prospects.

Marshall's Halifax

Liverpool may be in financial difficulties but some councils can clearly still find the odd bob or two. Marshall's Halifax sells most of its concrete paving blocks to local authorities and yesterday it reported growing demand. As a result, profits grew by 18 per cent to £4.14 million before tax in the six months to September.

The chairman, Mr David Marshall, says the company can sustain this rate of growth, despite the restraints on public spending.

The stock market, however, has recently shown signs of nerves, with the shares falling from a high of 186p last month to 166p yesterday. Admittedly they have had a good run, rising from 106p a year ago (adjusted for the recent split issue).

Marshall's plans to use its strong share price to pay for acquisitions and hopes to buy new sources of growth this way. It already makes concrete paving, kerbstones and walling products and is looking to expand the range.

In addition the engineering division, which makes mining equipment and hand tools, is growing fast. But compared with the concrete products and quarrying business, it is likely to remain small.

Critics can point to the company's poor performance on earnings. But the fall here reflects a one-off rise in the tax charge so progress for the year should be resumed next year. Whether that happens depends on how many shares are issued for acquisitions, because makers of concrete products tend to demand high multiples.

Marshall's itself trades on 14 times earnings, assuming profits reach £7 million in the full year. Fears of earnings dilution could hold back the shares, in the short term at least.

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Bid fever adds £952m to shares value

By Derek Pain and Cliff Feltham

Equities were once again in record breaking form yesterday with share values leading the field. The creation of a new retailing colossus through the merger of Habitat 66 and British Home Stores gave retail stocks, already enjoying their traditional pre-Christmas glow, a new surge of enthusiasm.

Helped by the takeover fervour the new account started with the FT 30 share index continuing its seemingly remorseless progress towards 1,200 points. It closed at a peak of 1,146.9 points, up 11.5

points. The FT-SE share index finished at 1,145.5 points, up 4.5 points.

According to Datasearch, share values improved by £952 million. The gain this year is now £39,423 billion.

In the year, the merger mania among retailing groups has pushed British Home Stores' bid for Marks and Spencer to the forefront. DIXONS Group contested takeover of Currys and the Ward White Group acquisition of Owen Owen.

Market speculators spent their time trying to sport the next victim with many pondering just how long J. Sainsbury (a rumoured bidder for BHS last week) and Marks and Spencer can remain aloof from the shopping spree.

BHS, just 312p at the start of the last account, surged 36p to

409p. Habitat 66 rose 18p to 566p.

Combined English Stores, where Warburg Investment Management has lifted its shareholding to 23 per cent, advanced 6p to 172p; Courts (Furniture) gained 10p to 186p and Harris Queensway improved 20p to 288p before losing a few coppers on profit making.

Boots was wanted, hitting 272p, up 17p. The shares have climbed 50p since last week's interim figures. Great Universal Stores was another strong and Searo also attracted buying. Woolworth Holdings gained 5p to 596p.

Burton Group, however, missed the party. Its shares fell 12p to 591p on worries that the HM-BHS merger will prompt Sir Terence Conran, the HM chairman, to drop his options in connected with Debenhams.

Foods were also in demand as Imperial Group seemed to rush to spend its cash intake from the sale of its troublesome Howard Johnson offshoot by announcing talks with United Biscuits.

The Barclay twins, Frederick

The power of apricot XEN.

The Apricot XEN is the juiciest, most sophisticated business supermicro available.

Whichever way you look at it - speed, power, versatility, looks, price - no other micro can touch it.

Thanks to the way we use our Intel 80286 processor, it's 60% faster than anything our biggest competitor has to offer. It's also four times faster than the others in its price range.

Furthermore, it's half their size as well as a fraction of their price.

All of which adds up to an incredibly fruitful sum of parts. But then you would expect that from Apricot.

Part of the Apricot XEN's appeal is its modular design, enabling you to design it to fit your needs exactly.

Free with every XEN is a large package of software including Microsoft's latest stroke of genius, MS-Windows.

This allows you to multi-task, doing your word-processing while your Apricot simultaneously busies itself with your accounts.

This all happens with easy to use drop-down menus, icons and windows; hence the software's name.

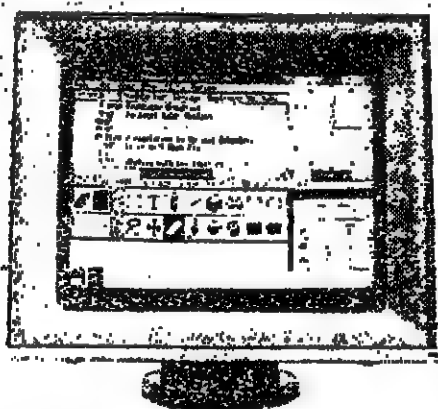
Consistent with every other computer in our range, the Apricot XEN is compatible and networkable with all our other models.

It also enjoys the benefits of the Apricot software library, the largest published in the UK.

Our powerful choice of monitors is clearly better.

Apricot XEN has three monitors for you to choose from.

The high-resolution mono displays include the extraordinary clarity of our paper-white screen as well as the more traditional green on black.



Our colour monitor lets you choose from a palette of up to 16 colours.

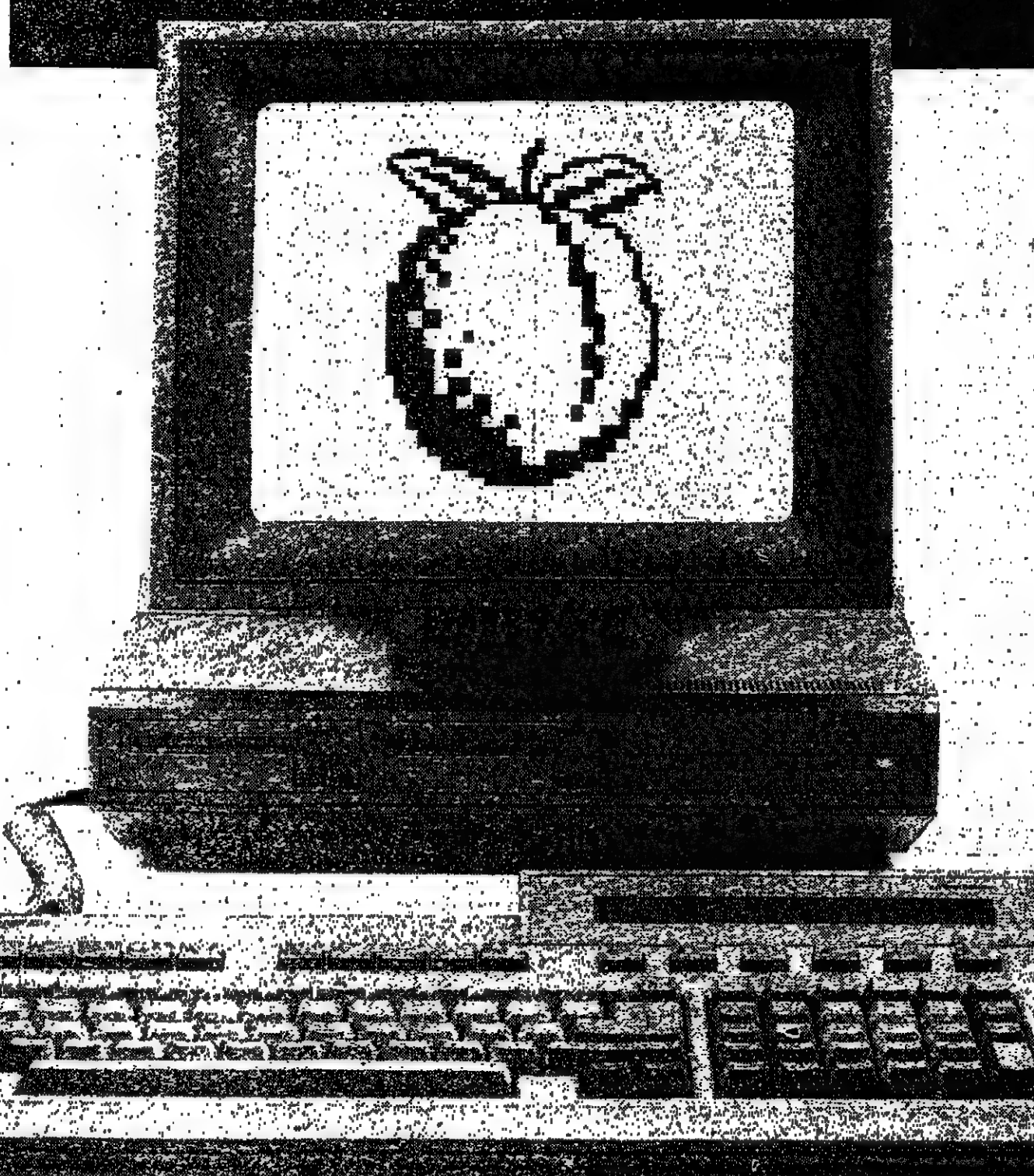
A Mouse with the power to make your life easier.



The only squeak you'll hear with our optional Mouse is one of pleasure from the user.

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INTEL 80286 PROCESSOR, GREEN MONITOR.

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Using MS-Windows, even complex commands can be activated by simply spinning the trackball on the Mouse to move or select data and software.

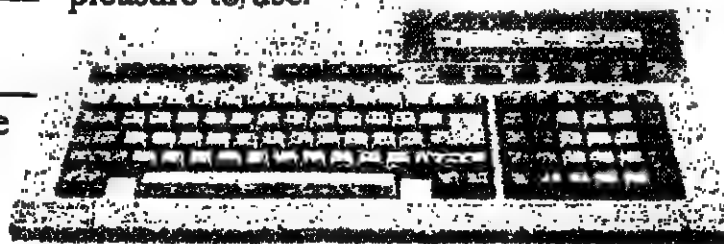
XEN-COM+ The power to communicate.

We not only handle your telephone and electronic mail but also put you in touch with up-to-the-minute international statistics at the touch of a button.



102 keys to power.

Both the fastest touch typist and the occasional user will find our keyboard a pleasure to use.



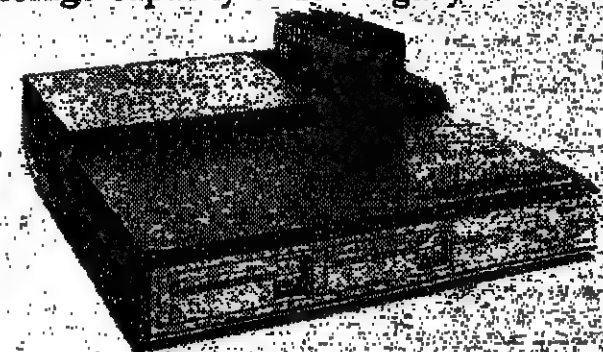
Included amongst the 102 keys are ten function keys and another six dedicated to the Apricot MicroScreen.

This integral display helps you use your software more efficiently as well as doubling up as a calendar, clock and calculator.

The power to expand.

Few micro's can compete with the storage and expansion capabilities of Apricot XEN.

Two basic configurations are offered including an integral 20Mb Winchester drive within the systems box which can be upgraded to include a second 20Mb Winchester giving a truly gargantuan storage capacity of 40 Megabytes.



An easily removed cover reveals six expansion slots. These can be used to expand the memory up to a massive 5Mb or for an internal modem or network card.

The power to drive 5.25 disks.

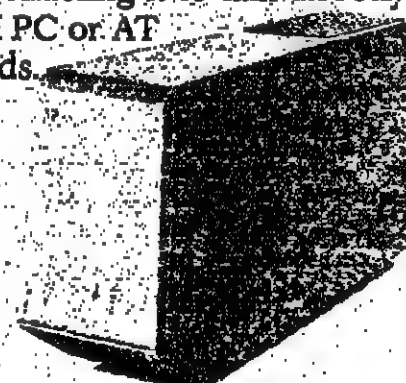
The Apricot XEN not only runs the advanced 3.5" disk, but also offers the option of an add-on 5.25" drive.



This enables you to easily accept data from your old IBM disks.

The power to take IBM on board.

Apricot's XP Expansion System simply plugs into the XEN's systems unit, enabling it to talk directly to IBM PC or AT boards.



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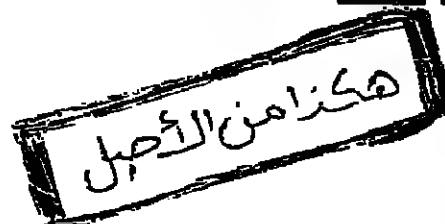
Please send me your free information package on the Apricot XEN. To: Apricot UK Limited, FREEPOST, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 1BR.

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COMPUTER HORIZONS/1

Stop your rivals shuffling the pack

Managers could find whole sections of their computer departments defecting to other companies if a new recruitment technique becomes popular.

Pack hunting, the signing up of a complete department or section of skilled staff, is a practice that has touched advertising and sales for many years but is new to the computing and technological sectors.

Stock market deregulation with its rapid expansion of electronics communication processing is generating a high level of demand for experienced staff who are already in short supply.

And British high technology and communications groups can look very tempting to foreign multi-nationals trying to break into the British market.

Although an entire computer department is probably too large a mouthful for most predators to swallow, small sections of five or six analysts or network specialists would be a convenient and economical way of gaining expertise at short notice.

The classic tactic for the coupe de group is to attract the departmental head and then use him to recruit the best members of his own staff.

Peter Brown, of Reward Regional Surveys, who helped

JOB SCENE

By Ian Cheesman

prepare an Institute of Directors survey which included this area, recommends several measures for keeping skilled staff within their companies.

He suggests generous housing loans with fierce surrender provisions, significant completion rewards with staggered payments for project completions and the strict enforcement of confidentiality clauses in employee contracts through court action.

Managers should also take steps to duplicate essential functions in case their preventive measures fail. Identifying key personnel and then training a deputy who knows he will be promoted into his chief's position is one method. Another is the splitting of small departments into two functional units which share responsibilities.

Companies who have their computer and communications departments located in city centres are far more vulnerable than rural sites. The move across town or even across the road is more easy to sell than uprooting six or seven people from Dorset or Gloucestershire. Computer companies in the country can add the advantage of so-called "green field hand-cuffs".

A route chosen by some US companies to avoid the trauma of losing key staff is the expert system or knowledge database. Using one or two of a company's specialists they employ a knowledge engineering programmer to create a system that retains information essential to a company function.

Learning to love the chip

There is a stronger breeze of realism concerning the introduction of new technology waiting through the factory and office workforce in Britain than perhaps the Government or the CBI have recognized. The evidence comes from the latest inquiry of the Policy Studies Institute, published today.

It shows an increasingly positive response by employees and trade unions and concludes that opposition to technological change is twice as common in France and West Germany as in the UK. When reduced to statistical terms, a survey of factories using new technology showed that only 7 per cent found opposition from the shop floor, or unions, as a major obstacle.

Conditions were even smoother in offices, where only 6 per cent of organisations experienced a difficult difficulty of reluctance.

When examined by jobs, more than two in three secretaries, and almost 75 per cent of typists, welcomed the introduction of word processors - still the big growth area in office automation. Apparently, only 4 per cent displayed outright opposition.

On the other side of the coin, microchip technology is linked with an average annual job loss that is equivalent to only one person per factory. The overall total job loss attributed directly to technology is put at 15,000 to 20,000 a year. This rate of job loss accounts for fewer than 0.5 per cent of total employment in manufacturing, and less than one-twentieth of the loss of jobs in manufacturing for other causes.

At first glance this perspective on the British attitude toward technical change might seem, understandably, hard to

swallow, especially as the index of industrial production and other yardsticks for measuring productivity seem stuck firmly in the same groove.

Yet on the evidence, the more common perception of antagonism and a Luddite response to advances in technology can be attributed to the action of a handful of industrial laggards; not the least of those identified are the Fleet Street newspapers.

The rozier picture of better co-operation by employees in Britain than by those of

THE WEEK

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

our European neighbours, may have something to do with the fact that much of British industry, and commerce is at a different stage of technological conversion - further behind.

But there are pessimistic notes to be heard in the over-riding tone of optimism. The team who have assembled *Chips and Jobs: Acceptance of New Technology at Work* are experienced hands at interpreting some of the more impenetrable aspects of industrial and economic activity.

The study was divided into three main categories: Michael Fogarty prepared chapters on industrial relations; Malcolm Trevor distilled the Japanese experience; and Jim Northcott examined how different product developments opened applications in each of the key sectors of the economy.

At the risk of stressing the pessimistic side of the report, the warnings which emerge contain crucial lessons. Even if, as always with hindsight, some seem obvious. What might, and certainly should, provoke a furrowed-brow of concern were the cases where opposition from top management, middle management and - sometimes, astonishingly, technical management were to blame for obstruction.

Many other obstacles to the use of new technology were recorded: the recession, the shortage of key skills, the high costs of new product development with hardware, problems with software, problems of compatibility. In fact, the opposition from the people who would be most affected was a long way down the shopping list of hurdles when the time came to implement change.

One reason to believe that the breath of realism in industry is genuine lies in the fact that earlier bouts of euphoria have faded. There is more than enough practical experience to dispel almost romantic visions of a hi-tech work paradise, with high-level work in idyllic conditions.

The authors of this study conclude that while the extent of acceptance so far should bring encouragement, it may not last because it is still the beginning. Second generation products and production processes, in offices as well as factories, will bring greater changes in the nature of work.

● *Chips and Jobs: The Acceptance of New Technology at Work*. Policy Studies Institute, 100 Park Village East, London NW1 (tel: 387 2171).



Price war turmoil threatens the software market

By Simon Craven

The current debate over software piracy and site licensing - the practice of offering drastically reduced unit costs to customers who need multiple copies of programs - is a symptom of an approaching shake-up in the personal computer software market as pricing levels start to meet stiffer resistance from customers.

Interest in the question of site licensing was highlighted by the offer of a deal on bestselling spreadsheet Lotus 1-2-3. Initially, only major customers will be able to cash in on the experiment, which will be in the shape of a volume purchase agreement or a corporate licence. Lotus Development only agreed to introduce these changes after intense lobbying by its present and potential clientele.

Lotus 1-2-3 is one of the most widely copied packages, despite anti-duplication measures built into the disk on which it is supplied. Programs which remove the anti-copying protection are readily available through users groups and computer bulletin boards. Lotus and other companies say they have suffered major losses via this route.

A Lotus spokesman reported some customers as saying that they wanted site licensing because they were worried about piracy going on within their firms. Site licensing will start in 1986 but only large orders will qualify first.

Another leading software vendor, Micropro UK, has announced that it refuses to follow its US parent into site licensing for its range of bestsellers including Wordstar. Micropro claims that the stumbling-block lies with Micropro's reliance on a dealer network for distribution in the UK - any move to site licensing

which is unprecedented in the personal computer software market, is to put cheap copies of Wordstar into the hands of corporate users, who have been responsible for most of the piracy, taking matters into their own hands in the absence of attractive site licensing deals.

Beneath these moves are underlying fears that a damaging price war might disrupt the hitherto orderly software market. The prices charged by most software companies producing programs for machines such as the IBM PC often have little relation to the cost of development or production and have usually been priced on the basis of "perceived value".

Striking out against this cosy system are people such as Adam Osborne, who intends to plug the gap for cheap IBM PC-compatible software at least with his Paperback Software range, including a word processor for £33.80, and a low-cost Lotus 1-2-3 clone.

Micropro has now decided to let unofficial Wordstar users

legitimise their master disks for £40 plus VAT. Users get their disks back with a serial number attached, and from then on will be able to apply for upgrades and exchanges in the normal way as they become available.

The effect of this policy, which is unprecedented in the personal computer software market, is to put cheap copies of Wordstar into the hands of corporate users, who have been responsible for most of the piracy, taking matters into their own hands in the absence of attractive site licensing deals.

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Australian test bed for IBM's JX

By Kevin Pearson

The forerunner of what could be IBM's next home computer is being test marketed in Australia. The company is selling a Westernised version of a Japanese machine, the JX, for about £1,000.

IBM will not comment on whether the computer will eventually appear in the UK, but if it is, the JX could face heavy competition from the horde of cheap PC-compatible machines that are due to appear shortly.

The JX was developed in Japan, and although it has not been as successful as some of those from Japanese suppliers, it has received positive reviews.

Pricing could be the device's downfall

It is based on the same microprocessor family as the PC and uses an operating system which should ensure compatibility with the wide range of available PC software. Behind this surface similarity there are some serious differences. It uses 3½ inch floppy disks or a 5¼ inch drive in a separate expansion unit.

But while most get 720 Kilobytes of data on a disk and some, such as Sony, are working on 2 megabyte drives, IBM only gets 320 Kilobytes. A version with 720 Kilobyte drives has been launched in Japan.

The JX is considerably more sophisticated than the older, ill-fated PC Junior (PCjr) - IBM's first attempt at a home computer. Launched in the US, it was dropped earlier this year after an extremely disappointing performance in the market.

It was never sold outside the US.

No matter how sophisticated the machine is, IBM's pricing could be a big let down. The Australian price of about £1,000 (about Aus \$2,000) gets you a basic machine of 64 Kilobytes of main memory and no disc drives - the machine can use a cassette and has two tape tape cartridge slots compatible with the cartridges for the PCjr.

Epson, perhaps better known for its printers and typewriters than its personal computers has announced a rock-bottom priced personal computer in the UK for less than £800, including one disk drive. And some cheaper machines could be on the way.

Astrad is widely tipped to be preparing a PC-compatible machine for launch, following the success of its £450 word processor.

So IBM's fire with the JX could have been stolen before it ever arrives on the European markets. Current pricing makes it look too uncompetitive in what promises to be a very tough market.

This fate befell the PCjr, which sold well when IBM cut the price to about £1,000, some \$400 below its normal rate.

With individual sales of computers for use in homes IBM does not have either the kind of marketing muscle or customer allegiance that helps it succeed in the office market.

The fierce price competition at the cheaper end of the market coupled with IBM's logical insistence that it will not sell products unless there is a healthy profit to be made may well mean an IBM home computer is still some time away.

The winners of the UK Computer Press Awards sponsored by The Times and Hewlett-Packard will be announced tomorrow night at a dinner at Claridges, to be hosted by Selina Scott.

Finalists for the seven awards are:

● Computer Journal of the Year - Computer News; Personal Computer World; Which Computer?

● Computer Journalist of the Year (Feature) - John Charlton, Computer Talk; Clive Coulthell, Which Computer?; Pat Sweet, Freelance.

● Computer Photographer of the Year (News) - Stephen Arkell, Computer News; Tessa Curtis, Computer Week; Guy Kewney, Microscope.

● Computer Programme of the Year (TV/Radio) - Computers in Control, Radio 4; Micro Live, BBC; Soft Spot, Anglia Television.

● Best Designed Journal of the Year - IBM Computer Today; Mac User, PC Magazine.

● Computer Columnist of the Year - Martin Banks, Personal Computer



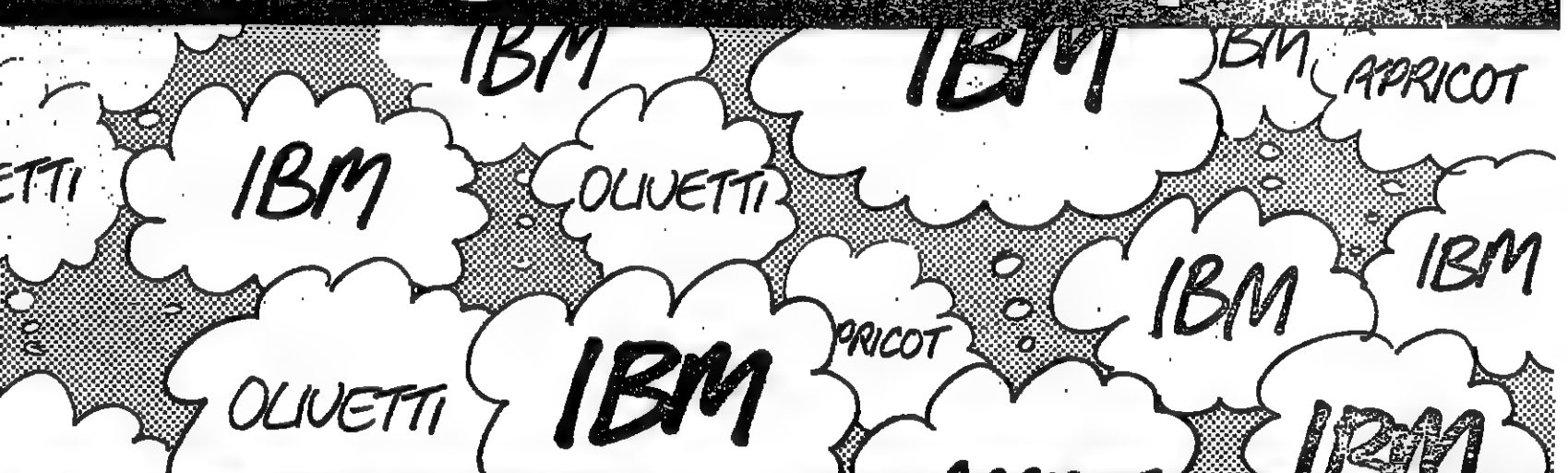
World: David Tebbutt, Microscope; David Guest, PC Week.

● Computer Programme of the Year (TV/Radio) - Computers in Control, Radio 4; Micro Live, BBC; Soft Spot, Anglia Television.

● Best Designed Journal of the Year - IBM Computer Today; Mac User, PC Magazine.

● Computer Columnist of the Year - Martin Banks, Personal Computer

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The whole world on your wrist

By Jay Dyer

Once upon a time, not very long ago, a watch was a little clock on a strap. It told the time, ticked quietly to tell to tell you it was working, and that was that. Solid gold or tin, jewelled or not, all watches were the same, and they did not talk back. That, however, is history.

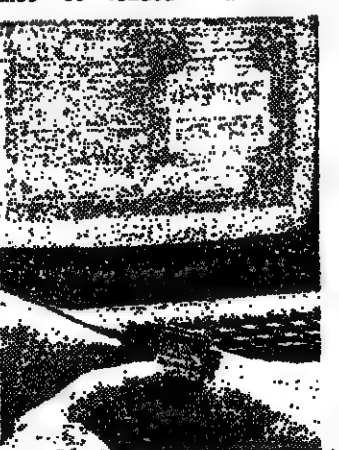
The grey plastic square adorning this journalistic wrist at the moment is a different beast. The latest creation of Seiko, the Japanese company that has already brought out a wrist television, and going under the striking name of the RC-1000 (whatever happened to the Oyster Perpetual) it tells the time, will display a list of telephone numbers or any other information I care to put in it, remind me to watch Hill Street Blues every Saturday night, beep an alarm up to a year ahead, and tell me the time in New York.

To know all these fascinating facts, of course, the watch has to be loaded, and for that you need a personal computer. Yes there had to be a catch. To load this device you type the information you want into your local user-friendly computer plug a cable into the computer and watch, and hey presto, 80 two-line messages on the end of your arm.

Now whether you need 80

two-line messages at the end of your arm must be a moot point, but the manufacturers obviously think you do. This is only the latest in a growing number of devices that once filled a brief case and now can be crammed into something like a watch case.

There are others that act as the display for their own miniature computers, and can also be loaded with information.



The Seiko RC-1000

mation, diaries, alarms and even a mini version of space invaders if that is your weakness.

It seems that only the inconvenient fact that there are

26 letters in the alphabet, and 26 keys will not fit on a watch has stopped someone trying to put the whole of computer inside one. A calculator is different, however.

I always felt that a calculator was to enable you to do sums without the aid of a pen. Not true. If you've ever tried to get a shabby finger to press only one button at a time on a watch calculator you'll know you still need a pen, to press the buttons.

If you're a jogger you can now get a watch that will take your heart rate to see if you are still alive at the end of your run, and there are the devices that have left all pretence of being a watch behind and just sit where a watch should sit.

American secret servicemen guarding the President have long been famous for talking up their sleeves.

The wrist television took a little longer, and does not really count as though the screen is on your wrist you still need a wire up your sleeve to a box containing the main part of the works, plus a pair of headphones which also contains the aerial.

All this, of course, raises the problem of how you tell the time. Easy. Forget the wrist and simply look at the clock on your key-ring, ruler, pen, lighter, calculator. Or you could always ask a policeman.

The new system also relays rally information and urgent messages to mobile printer terminals in the cars of adjudicating officials.

The rally ends on Friday.

RAC rally races into a hotel lounge

By Frank Brown

This year's 2,200-mile Lombard RAC Rally which began in Nottingham on Sunday, is the most computerized yet.

The rally's plush hotel headquarters has a computer system which processes and statistically analyses results as they come in from every stage of the event's 65 special stages, and makes them instantly available to officials and the army of journalists on hand to cover what is regarded as one of

the world's toughest motor competitions.

In addition to providing up-to-the-minute information on how every one of the 150 competitors is faring, the system gives journalists instant access through VDU screens to results and analyses of all earlier stages, and comments made by competitors on how well they performed at each stage - a facility which has not been previously available.

In earlier rallies results of a

given stage were available on computer only while the stage was in progress. After that, they were transferred to microfiche and manually prepared bulletins, which were time-consuming both to prepare and to search through for a specific item of information.

The new system also relays rally information and urgent messages to mobile printer terminals in the cars of adjudicating officials.

The rally ends on Friday.

COMPUTER HORIZONS/2

How the British hit deadlines

By Richard Sarson

Everyone accuses the British builder of being late on his promised completion dates; and of mismanaging the bricklayers, so that they are either sitting around idle, waiting for the bricks or a crane to turn up, or working expensive overtime, to try to win back the lost time.

It comes as a surprise, therefore, to find that one of our most successful high-tech exports is project management software which helps firms to hit their deadlines. The idea is that instead of taking a wild stab at the length and cost of a project, you break the whole process into steps or individual activities.

You define their sequence and how they inter-relate with other activities, and draw up a network of the project, with milestones and deadlines along its course.

Lay these activities and resources end to end, and you come up with a better idea of when you will get a person man to the moon, how many scientists, computers, rockets, and fuel you will need, and how much it will all cost.

All this can be done by pen and pencil, but it becomes arduous if the project is a large one, a network of 200 or 2,000 activities.

Computers can help, not to decide the shape of the network,

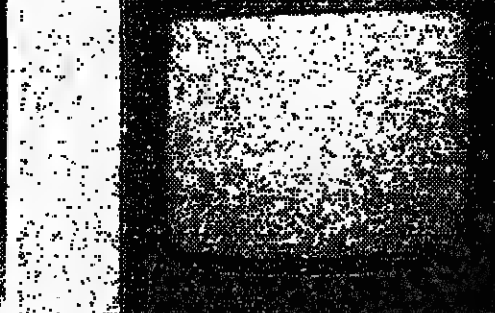
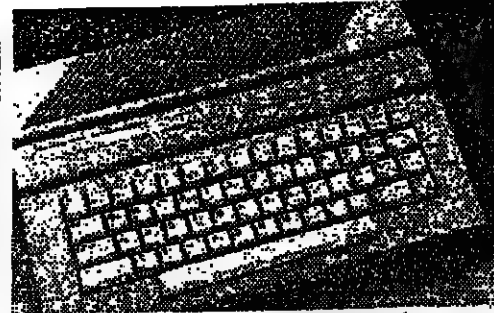
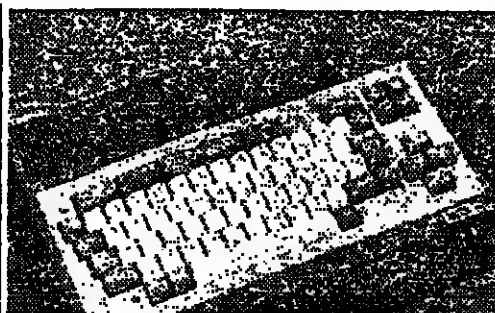
or what resources you have to put in - only you can work that out - but to calculate which of the activities will hold up the completion date if they slip, and which ones are not so important.

"Critical Path Analysis" techniques have been around on large expensive computers for 25 years, but in the last three years, micros have extended its use, from large construction companies and defence establishments, down to businessmen planning to move their office, or do a market survey. Now there are a bewildering number of project management systems for micros.

The most sophisticated ones are British. None were developed by large, established software houses, most of them being the work of small groups of engineers, and many of them in parts of the country not normally associated with computer-technology.

For instance, Microplaner comes from a team in Westbury-on-Trym, near Bristol, and Plantrac from Weybridge. Permaster was designed in Bradford. Horner is made in Rothbury, a village in the heart of the Cheviots. Artemis was designed largely in Ipswich.

All of these have sold more than 1,000 copies of their programs. Most gratifyingly, all of them export 40 per cent or more of their total sales,



The price should be right for pick of the Christmas crop

By Matthew May

Most home computers are better value for money this year, and high street stores and computer retailers are fervently hoping Christmas will see the return of the home computer boom.

But there is also a sense of caution, fuelled by a determination that they will not be caught again like last year. Having ordered unprecedentedly large stocks the bubble burst and many machines were left on the shelves.

What these products have so far failed to do is to make the transition from glorified games playing machines to other uses that would attract real numbers of adults. However, there is still considerable appeal.

This year home computers are generally cheaper, and some considerably so. The Sinclair QL, for example, is half the price at £199 while others are being offered in package deals that include cassette recorders

and software. Buying a computer by itself, as some purchasers realise only too late, soon requires other purchases unless someone in the family is a genius programmer.

The discounting of old or unsuccessful models means a computer can be picked up for as little as £50 - a price where it may be worth experimenting before investing what could be several hundreds of pounds in a more powerful system and possibly making an expensive mistake.

Home computers have their limitations - ideas of computerised recipes, home accounts or gardening guides are usually cheaper and simpler by more conventional and old fashioned means. It is in entertainment that the real advantage lies - from computer versions of Scrabble and chess through graphic games of annihilation, tortuous adventures and simple educational programs.

There are over 30 home

computers for sale this year, selling with different extras or at different prices depending on the retailer - so it is worth shopping around.

Here are 12 of the most widely available for those looking for their first home computer.

● **Acorn BBC** The widespread use of this micro in schools has ensured a good range of

educational programs are available. But Acorn is behind the times with its pricing, charging a hefty and uncompetitive £469 for the model with 64k of memory, and nearly £500 for a 128k model.

Those looking for a degree of compatibility with the BBC software used in schools should consider the slightly more limited but much cheaper Acorn Electron. The 32k BBC

micro has now been discontinued though old stocks are still available in some shops for about £270.

● **Acorn Electron** A reasonable range of software is available for this micro and it is fairly compatible with that for the BBC. It lacks the expansion possibilities of the BBC but at discount prices, for example £99 including a cassette recorder, it can be a good buy.

● **Amstrad 464** Amstrad has leapt to prominence this year with a range of good micros that include built-in cassette recorders or disk drives and monitors at good prices. In fact, the 464, with built-in cassette recorder at £199 with black and white monitor and £299 with colour monitor, is facing its stiffest competition from another Amstrad computer, the 6128, which for another £100 offers great improvement.

● **Amstrad 6128** If you want a home computer that does more than play games then this offers

the best of both worlds - if you want to spend the money, it includes a built-in disk drive and black and white monitor for £299, and colour monitor for £399, and is equally happy running games or basic business programs, though much business use and you will require the additional expense of buying a printer.

It is worth noting that while many people have bought home computers with the intention of dabbling in word processing or home accounts, the vast majority have ended up being used to play games.

● **Amstrad £256** This is only a home computer in the sense of its price. It will not run games and while more business programs are promised it is currently only suitable for those who have a heavy requirement for word processing - which, at a price of £248, is excellent (See page 28).

● **Atari 800XL** Atari were the pioneers of arcade type games and a wide range of good software is available. Special deals on this micro include one with a cassette recorder at £100, and with a disk drive at £170. The Atari 130XE contains 128k of memory, double that of the 800XL, and costs £170 for the basic unit.

● **Commodore 16** In today's terms the memory of this micro is unacceptably small at 16k and the choice of software is limited. Its failure to take-off has resulted in discount prices down to £90 which might make it a suitable introduction for those interested in simple Basic programming.

● **Commodore 64** Probably the world's best selling micro - now looking a little long in the tooth - there is an extensive and good range of software available. The

price of £199 includes a cassette deck and four games. The Commodore 128 has twice the memory size, but at a price of £270 compares unfavourably with the Amstrad 6128 with its built-in disk drive.

● **Commodore Plus 4** A 64k micro with four poor business programs built-in, and little other software available. It started at £300 but is now

discounted to below £100, at which it may be worth a look for those with minimal business requirements.

● **Sinclair QL** Halved in price earlier this year to £199, sales are said to have picked up. It is supplied with four business packages, with other software limited and expensive, typically at about £15 per item.

● **Sinclair Spectrum A** tried and tested favourite with a wide range of software. The current model has an improved keyboard, and one special deal includes a cassette recorder and software for £130. There are stocks in some shops of the earlier model with a rubber pad keyboard which, with discount prices as low as £50, could be an attractive buy.

● **Toshiba HX16** One of several Far East micros on sale that conform to the Japanese MSX standard - an attempt to make home computers compatible with each other and run the same programs. MSX has so far failed to take off and some models have been heavily discounted. The HX16 is on sale for about £80, and similar micros by such companies as Sony and Sanyo at £90 offer little more.

● The proportion of software for home computers that is games-oriented has declined during the past few years though figures from research firm Mintel show computer games still account for more than three-quarters of programs sold. Educational and financial software each account for 13 per cent of sales. Other Mintel research shows 57 per cent of home computer owners have more than six pre-recorded programs while only 4 per cent have none.

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COMPUTER HORIZONS/3

Dr Clark's million-dollar game

By Roger Woolhouse

THE many-coloured Rubik's Cube rotates in free space on the computer screen. As it twists and turns, it shows a moving shadow on the surface beneath. Suddenly it explodes into separate pieces, each tumbling in a multiplicity of three-dimensional optical illusions.

This is computer graphics in a quality which, until now, has been available only to a select few. Dr James Clark is showing all that.

He says: "The way they are currently doing it is with a graphics terminal that is quite slow, and is connected to an expensive minicomputer or mainframe. What we are doing is making the graphics part much faster for a lower price."

The leap in value for money is astonishing. Today's conventional computer-aided design systems, offering 3D colour images with which the user can interact, might cost out at half a million dollars. The stand-alone workstation with this performance marketed by Dr Clark's company, Silicon Graphics, costs under \$50,000. In just over three years, he reckons the price will be down to \$20,000 (about £14,500). Dr Clark says: "We are making high-end performance available at much lower prices."

The answer lies, of course, in



Dr James Clark: Giving value for money

the chip. While working on a defence contract at Stanford University in California, Dr Clark designed a highly complex circuit called the Geometry Engine. The world hardly beat a path to his door.

Dr Clark reels off the top computer and graphics companies that he spoke to about his better mouse trap - Hewlett-Packard, Digital Equipment, IBM, Tektronix, Apollo.

"They were interested," he recalls, "but as the chip was not yet working, most of them did not fully believe it."

That was in 1981. Stanford University said it would license the chip to Dr Clark if he had a company, so he and his six-strong research team decided to form one. "I scrounged about in the Stanford Business School and found documents which explained how to put together a high-technology business plan."

He was venture-capital backed of close to a million dollars, but not before some fine tuning on his proposals. Dr Clark said: "The investors did not say: 'You guys don't have what it takes'. They would just respond in a cool way."

Things soon heated up. Only four years later, and with three rounds of fresh financing behind it, Silicon Graphics is heading for a turnover of \$50 million. Major uses for the company's workstations are being found in mechanical design, chemical synthesis and chemical modelling, architecture and construction, and flight simulation.

In one application, the US Army is using the system to simulate a tank battle in a realistic war-game. It's a point not lost on Silicon Graphics.

"One of our engineers wrote a dog-fight game," Dr Clark admits. "At five or six in the evening in our company, you can find people playing it."

How to get to grips with software

Q: As a small business we find it hard to evaluate software packages. Demonstration disks are too clever. A course is expensive. Is there any other way?

A: Things are moving slowly to ease this problem, some software is covered by separate "trainer" disks for personal computers. The disks serve the purpose of training people who forget how to do things if they have not used a piece of software for a while. In my case, that means about four days of doing something different.

They also give a better picture of the nature of the full package than a demonstration disk by itself. The larger dealers are usually able to arrange evaluation sessions with software that is fairly popular. These sessions are not complete courses but are less expensive and may help you. Things are rather more difficult if you want to buy software which is not in the best-selling category, but here you would always want to visit existing users and this may prove an answer.

Q: The price of personal computers seems to have been dropping faster than the costs of installing "machines" in "work with... four...". Is this trend going to continue?

A: I assume that you have in mind some buying options. If there is a genuine need for three or four users to share files for much of the time then a small multi-user machine is probably more economical than linking personal computers. The choice is generally based on the style of software that is to be supported as well as the need to simplify

WORKSHOP

HEDLEY VOYSEY answers questions in this column on business and personal computers. Write to Workshop, Computer Horizons, The Times, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

data sharing. If good applications development aids are what is needed in your business then the choice seems to lie between the more powerful personal computers and a carefully selected multi-user system.

You will find that it is easy to spend £5,000 on a supercharged single user machine. Most of the dramatic drop in single user system prices is to be seen at the most basic level of performance. In effect the basic personal computer market is apparently awash with alternatives and this is leading to price cuts.

The overall picture of falling costs is about the same for all machines with fairly simple "architectures" - to borrow a term from the specialist field of computer design. On a day-to-day basis this general trend is varied by old fashioned competitive pressures. Electronics factories have built a "mountain" of rudimentary small computers which are being dumped on the market before they are upstaged by more powerful beasts.

Q: What would I have to spend to obtain both a modem for telecommunications linkages

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COMPUTER HORIZONS/4

A system to hold up the bank robber

A visit to your local bank to pick up some cash could take considerably longer if a novel computerized cash dispenser catches on. Used by bank employees the new unit, designed like a safe, has been developed by the West German computer company Siemens, with the aim of reducing the number of bank robberies.

Few bank hold-ups apparently last much longer than three minutes and so the dispenser has been deliberately designed to delay issuing cash after a bank teller's request for several minutes. The delay ranges from two to five minutes depending on the amount requested. Notices would be displayed in banks to point out that cash can only be given out after a delay and making it clear that bank staff cannot open the dispenser themselves without further lengthy delays.

Popular appeal

As home computer games have exhausted most of the variations on a theme possible with the half a dozen original ideas of space invaders, adventures, etc. software distributors have found that one route to success can lie in

COMPUTER BRIEFING

connecting programs with popular films, books or pop groups. The latest entrant comes from software firm Domark with a computer game based on the violent horror film Friday 13th.

Though this film has a restricted cinema showing, excluding those under 18 years old, such computer games are typically bought by the much younger age group of 7 to 14 years old. Newsagent multiple John Menzies - has already objected to the lurid cover for the game which Domark says "features an ice hockey mask in a pool of blood with a knife through the eye-hole". Menzies has said it will accept the game but only with a different cover.

'Labor' saver

As the size of personal computer memories increase so does the opportunity to have some form of spelling checker included with a word processing program. Such products normally include a dictionary of several thousand words and will check the spelling of words typed into a document pointing out any it considers to be mistyped.

The first problem customers faced was an over eagerness by suppliers to get products out in Britain which led to some of them importing spelling checkers from America without amendment. British users were not amused to be continually told that they were misspelling such words as labour and colour and refused to accept the Americanized alternatives of labor and color.

The latest problem to surface comes from American reports of a word processing system at General Motors which objected to the word businessman. Surely, said the computer, the author must mean businesswoman. The system also objected to other words such as chairman. An embarrassed IBM, which supplied the software, is understood to have now made the program a little more liberated.

Desk library

Advertising agencies need more than creative ideas and catchy slogans. They need information: product statistics, market forecasts and articles from trade journals. One young advertising man, Danny Wagner, 22, found he was spending 20 per cent of his time identifying the right marketing reports, and having to send messengers all over the place to pick them up. So he has built a computerized library, which advertising executives, PR people and marketing staff can access from microcomputers on their desks.

He calls the service MAID, Market Analysis and Information Database. It went live last week, and has already won two large advertising agencies BBDO and Unilever as customers. The information is provided by four market research publications, The Economist Intelligence Unit, Euromonitor Publications, Jordan Information Services and Market Assessment Publications. The system is cross-referenced, so that if you ask for information on "computers" on your keyboard, you will get on your screen an index of all reports on computers from all four information sources.

There is also a "newswire" digest service culled from the trade press, and access to what is known in advertising as "MEAL" Advertising Expenditure Data.

Spread the good word about processors

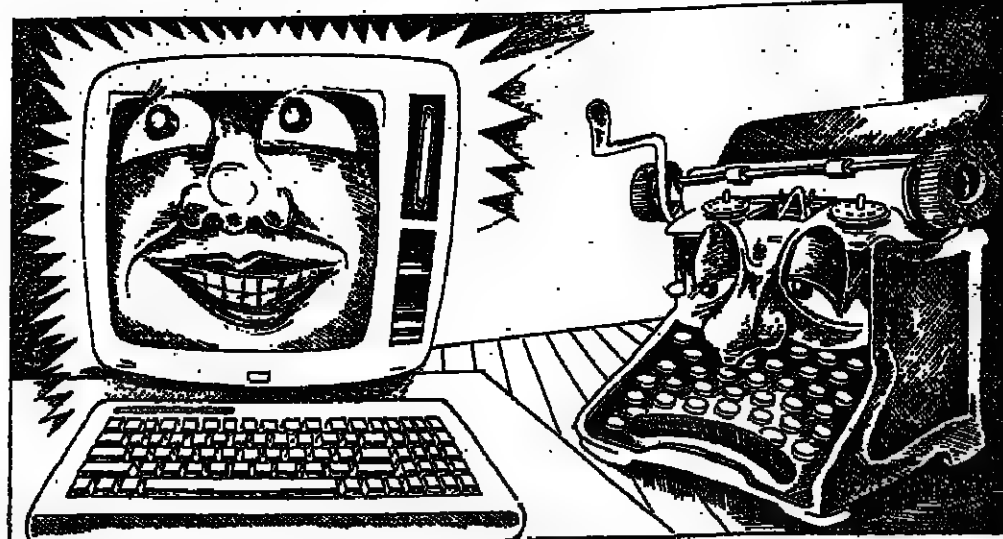
By Lee Rodwell

I have resisted the temptations of word processors for some years now, typing letters, features and even a 60,000-word book on my aged but reliable Adler manual typewriter. Converts to computers demonstrated their machines to me with enthusiasm, but though I admired - and envied - their skills and flirted a little with the new technology, I held back from the final commitment.

There were two main reasons for this. The first was the cost. Most people advised me that it would be necessary to spend more than £1,500 to get a worthwhile word processor. The second was the time involved learning to work the machine itself. As a busy freelance juggling the demands of work and childcare I doubted whether I could afford to spend hours getting to know a computer, instead of making money writing features.

Then Amstrad brought out the PCW 8256. For £459 you get a complete word processing system - keyboard, monitor with built-in disc drive, printer and Locoscript disc. At that price it seemed worth a closer look, particularly since Amstrad claimed the system was easy to use.

The most daunting thing about it turned out to be the User Guide - a feature it has in common with most computers. After an hour dutifully working my way through the examples I



got bored and put the handbook to one side. It was more fun experimenting and, unlike other systems I have encountered, it was fairly easy to work out how to do what you wanted using the command keys on the keyboard, the information listed at the top of the screen and the choices in each menu, instead of having to memorise complicated codes.

Amstrad is the first to admit that the PCW 8256 was made with the small business user in mind, and Locoscript is designed to cope with the kind of work that would normally be done by a secretary - letters, memos, reports, invoices.

It was easy to cut and to

change copy, switch paragraphs around, deleting others. It was comforting to know that if I erased a complete document by mistake it might not be lost forever. All the files you initially erase are put into a state of limbo and stay on the disc until the room they are taking up is needed for a new document. Unfortunately, the computer does not jettison these files on a first-in, first-out basis, but on length.

Once I got the hang of using the keyboard (which felt like the keyboard of a portable electric typewriter), remembered to use the backwards and forwards cursor keys instead of the space bar and found the page in the User Guide which listed short-

checked with Amstrad it admitted this had been an oversight in the software and promised to send me the new version.

I also had to change my way of working. When I use a typewriter I rarely do rough drafts, but tend to stare at what I have already written while I compose the next paragraph. Staring at a typewriter sheet is one thing, staring at bright green characters on a black screen is another. After "suffering" a particularly bad case of writer's block I happened to glance out of the window and saw that all the white lines on the road were pink.

Printing is easy and the quality acceptable. The printer is not as noisy as some I've heard and takes about a minute to print a full A4 page. You can use either single sheet or continuous reel paper but you can't instruct it to print the same document twice. So if you want more than one copy of a document you have to be there to push the buttons. But it can print out one document while you edit another.

Now that I have used the Amstrad I don't want to go back to my typewriter. However, I have reservations about its ability to cope with something as large as a 60,000 word book, particularly since this was not what it was designed for.

But for £459 (or £642 for the version with an extra disc drive) it seems a gamble worth taking. See page 26.

Portable buffs do it on the plane

By Geoff Wheelwright

The plane decends, quietly into Heathrow airport, with most passengers looking distractedly out of the window in the hopes of perhaps catching a glimpse of a waiting relative in the arrivals lounge. But there is one person, hunched over his lap, with hands moving quickly over something that looks about the size of a hardback book. Is it a book, is it a sales report? No, it is a portable computer - and it is being used the way every manufacturer dreams.

That picture is still pretty much a dream, while some people do use portable computers in planes and on buses, they are among a perhaps over-enthusiastic minority.

Some airlines even forbid the use of portable computers in flight - although there is not yet any definitive evidence that they have any effect on in-flight instrumentation.

Whether underground passengers or airline companies like it or not, the so-called lap-top portable computers are here - without any evidence that there is really any demand for it.

Battery-operated portable computers with built-in liquid crystal displays "on-board" word-processing, communications abilities have now become so widely available that you can pick one up for less than £300. And there is every indication that this price will continue to drop - as more companies move into the portable computer market.

Already most of the major Japanese manufacturers - including Epson, Toshiba, Sharp and NEC - have offered one form of battery-operated lap-top computer or another, and a good deal of them have been able to use computer software written for the IBM PC in the hope that the portable computer can not only act as an on the road stand-in for the desk top personal computer - but can replace it.

Suppliers of such machines argue that large scale organizations with employees who travel a lot will benefit from having

the power of a desktop system in the space of something that fits inside a briefcase.

There seems to be four key elements to winning the portable computer market:

● Making the machine software compatible with the IBM PC (a relatively easy task).

● Making it use the same disk drive storage system as the IBM PC (not such an easy task in a portable machine).

● Providing a readable LCD screen.

● Making the machine light, small and battery-operated.

Many portable computers come close to this specification, but either end up needing mains power, using non-IBM type discs, or producing a screen that is unreadable in all but the best light conditions.

Ironically, the company which made its fortune selling a mains-operated portable computer is not planning to enter the lap-top market. The company says it has several times produced a prototype of such a machine, but that the technology was not yet available at the right price to produce a computer with sufficient appeal.

DATA PROTECTION

"DATA RULES" IN THE FRINGE LINE

A major city law firm indicated recently that more than half their clients had still to get to grips with the implications of a highly complex new law - The Data Protection Act 1984.

Issues such as "What precisely is Personal Data?" - "Where is it held?" - "Should I register?" - remain unresolved by many and yet beginning on the 1st November 1985 and before the 1st May 1986 companies who hold or process "Personal data" on computer or word processor must register with the Data Protection Registrar.

To learn what your legal obligations are and to find out how to go about identifying the relevant data and ensuring its security, the Registrar has produced a booklet "Data Protection: A Guide for Companies".

Attend the Legal Studies Seminar in London on the 4th December 1985. For further details contact: Magdalen Community, Tel: 01 238 4880 or 88870.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

The Atari 520ST has an unbeatable specification and, with its power, speed, high resolution graphics and low price, its leading edge technology has convinced over 200 software companies in the U.K. to write software packages for it.

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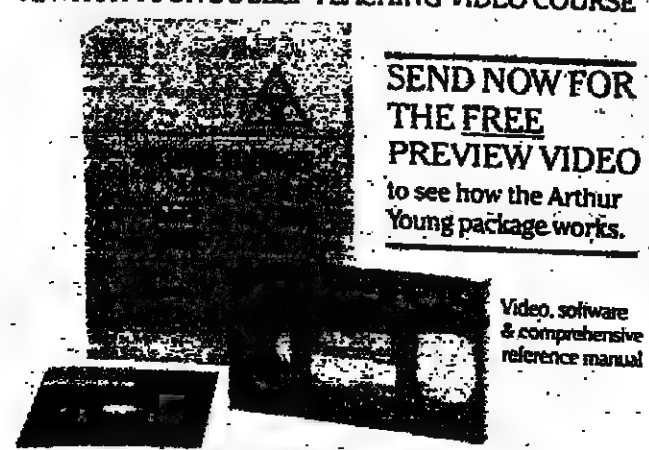
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هكذا من الأفضل

SPORT 25

POH (Pohang Steelers) 2-1, England 4-1
WARRINGTON (Warrington Wolves) 1-0, National football
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (County Championship) 1-0, Blackinghams 1-0
DERBYSHIRE (Derbyshire) 1-0, Gloucestershire 1-1; Norfolk 2-0
PIZZA EXPRESS (Pizza Express) 1-0, Derbyshire 1-0
CRICKET
INDEPENDENT (Independent) 1-0, Australia 1-0
3-0 (3-0) 1-0, Orange Free State 1-0
1-0 (1-0) 1-0, Match drawn
LANCASHIRE (Lancashire) 1-0, Shroton 1-0
4-0 (4-0) 1-0; Tasmania 1-0 and 1-0
(R) Hyatt (R) 1-0; A Zeens 4-0, South Australia
won by 9 wickets

POH (Pohang Steelers) 2-1, England 4-1
WARRINGTON (Warrington Wolves) 1-0, National football
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (County Championship) 1-0, Blackinghams 1-0
DERBYSHIRE (Derbyshire) 1-0, Gloucestershire 1-1; Norfolk 2-0
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CRICKET
INDEPENDENT (Independent) 1-0, Australia 1-0
3-0 (3-0) 1-0, Orange Free State 1-0
1-0 (1-0) 1-0, Match drawn
LANCASHIRE (Lancashire) 1-0, Shroton 1-0
4-0 (4-0) 1-0; Tasmania 1-0 and 1-0
(R) Hyatt (R) 1-0; A Zeens 4-0, South Australia
won by 9 wickets

1. SPB. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844.

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Price Waterhouse

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London E1 9UN. Tel: 01-488 9701

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS ☎ 01-837 0668

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The position requires a solicitor with at least four years admitted experience of all aspects of commercial conveyancing. There is also an opportunity to undertake some franchising and commercial work.

Advocate/Litigator

A recently qualified Solicitor/Barrister is needed to join the Litigation Section. Some advocacy experience is essential for Industrial Tribunal work and also a good working knowledge of High Court and County Court procedures. In addition the applicant will have an opportunity to be involved in many other aspects of the Company's legal work.

The salaries will be competitive and other benefits are those to be expected from a major commercial group.

For an application form, please write to Mrs R. Haq, Legal Department, United Biscuits (UK) Limited, Grant House, PO Box 40, Syon Lane, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5NN. Tel: 01-560 3131 Ext. 4395.

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR £11,604 - £12,513

Applications are invited from Solicitors with litigation and advocacy experience to undertake a variety of interesting legal work in a busy office. Must be able to work with the minimum of supervision and be responsible for a heavy case load. Local Government experience is not necessary. Those interested may discuss the post with Andrew Wilcock on 061-480 4849 ext. 3249.

Further details and application form may be obtained from the:

Director of Administration,
Town Hall, Stockport SK1 3XE.
Tel: 061-480 4949 ext. 3263.
Closing date: 12th December 1985

STOCKPORT

WEST SURREY

Haslemere Practice of four office firm requires:
Solicitor for Probate Trust and Tax
Partnership prospects. Must be capable of handling heavy work load.

Assistant Solicitor for General Legal Work

Recently admitted applicants considered.

Please apply in either case with full curriculum vitae to:

P. R. Jones Esq.,
BURLY & GEACH
8 Swan Street, Petersfield,
Hampshire GU32 3AE.
Telephone (0730) 62401 daytime
or (0730) 62254 evenings

IDS EMPLOYMENT LAW SERVICE LABOUR LAW RESEARCH

Opportunity for a Senior Research Lawyer - starting salary not less than £11,200 - to join a team writing on employment law for an information service used by Personnel Managers, Lawyers and Tribunals. Applicants should be over 30, professionally qualified and should have studied employment law as a speciality. Recently qualified Lawyers with an industrial background would be welcome.

We also require an employment law specialist to do research and write for our journal during the temporary absence of one of our Lawyers. Salary not less than £9,145.

Apply in writing with full details of education and career to date to: R E Arnold, Income Data Services Ltd, 140 Great Portland Street, London, W1N 5TA.

PART TIME CONVEYANCING

Small friendly City firm with very interesting and varied work load seeks a part time conveyancer to do domestic and some commercial conveyancing 2½ days per week or 4 hours per day.

Please send your C.V. to Stephen Lloyd, Bates, Wells & Braithwaite, 20 Old Bailey, London EC4A. Tel: 01-236 9081.

LITIGATION SOLICITOR

Rapidly expanding WCI practice require highly competent litigation solicitor with considerable experience, who is prepared to work under high pressure on general commercial litigation matters. Salary commensurate to experience. Definite partnership prospects to the right applicant.

Ref GM, Box 1301 The Times

CHESTERFIELD MAGISTRATES' COURT

Appointment of Trainee Court Clerk

This is an ideal opportunity for a newly qualified solicitor/barrister who wishes to pursue a career in the Magisterial Service. Applications may also be considered from law graduates, but, regrettably articles of clerkship cannot be offered.

Salary Scales: Law Graduate £5,328 - £6,753
Solicitor/Barrister £6,549 - £8,753

Application forms may be obtained from Mrs Briggs or Mrs Yearl (Chesterfield 78171) and should be returned by the 11th December, 1985.

G. A. FOWLER
Clerk to the Justices,
The Court House, West Bars,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

SOLICITOR Property/Finance £22,000 neg

The European subsidiary of a major international company, the Greyhound Group of Companies, is active in property finance and large ticket leasing and has a vacancy for a young solicitor to join its legal department in Mayfair.

The successful candidate is likely to have a minimum of 4 years relevant post-admission experience in the preparation of documentation of commercial property finance transactions, preferably gained in a lender's environment. He or she should be self-motivated and capable of working independently.

Initial salary £22,000, negotiable, to include company car. Benefits include top scale BUPA, non-contributory pension scheme, free life insurance and participation in the company's bonus plan.

Please send full CV and details of current salary to:

Miss P. J. Bailey
The Greyhound Group of Companies
9/10 Grafton Street, London W1X 3LA

Tax Technical Editor

We have a vacancy for a technical editor to carry out tax research and writing in connection with a variety of publications as well as some commissioning and editing work. The successful candidate will be a qualified solicitor or barrister with a minimum of 5 years relevant experience in tax research and writing. A sound knowledge of UK tax law and practice, and the ability to communicate that knowledge clearly are essential. A recently obtained AT or similar specialist qualification would be a distinct advantage.

Salary and conditions in accordance with NUJ agreement.

Please reply with full C.V. to:

Mrs D. Gale, Personnel Dept.,
Butterworth & Co (Publishers) Ltd.,
88 Kingsway, London WC2B 6AB.

Butterworths

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RESIDENTIAL CONVEYANCER

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LEGAL LA CRÈME ☎ 01-837 1234 extn.7677 or 01-278 9161

McGuinness Finch Solicitors

Partner requires Secretary with WP and, preferably, legal experience. Good working atmosphere. Salary £9,750 with benefits.

Please apply with full CV to:

John Finch, MCGUINNESS FINCH,
48 Maddox Street, London, W1

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SOUTH WEST LONDON practice requires experienced partnership secretary & highly efficient legal secretary. Law Secretary, 01-837 0668.

CHANCERY LANE and Secretaries. Terms £2,500 p.a. Permanent up to £2,500. 25, Maddox St. 01-493 0032.

LEGAL FLOAT £11,000 + Bonus

If you have lots of legal experience and prefer the flexibility of a "floating" position - this prestigious practice would like to hear from you. Articulate person with 'O' levels and accurate audit essential. Top benefits. Call Mary.

CONVEYANCING PA £10,500 + Early Review
A major County Partner of prestigious SW1 practice currently requires a PA/Assistant Secretary to run his office. This is a very demanding position that requires flexibility, initiative and personal ability. Commensurate conveyancing & legal and business law. WP will be provided. Own office, very good. 01-837 0668. Call Mary.

We have a demand for legal secretaries to work for our prestigious clients throughout Central London. Excellent rates plus holiday and Bank Holiday pay.

1. Legal WP Sec shorthand and audio, up to £5,800 p.a.

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For more information about these and other interesting positions please call Mary, Central or Maida 01-242 0785.

Personnel Appointments

95 Abchurch Lane, London EC4A 3DF. Tel: 01-242 0785 (24 hr answer service)

HARROGATE NORTH YORKSHIRE Potential COMPANY/ COMMERCIAL PARTNER

Long established firm, at present four partners, seeks Solicitor with two to three years relevant experience since admission to develop and expand existing commercial opportunities from good client base. This is a new appointment and the successful applicant who will increasingly take full responsibility for company/commercial work within the firm must be of partnership calibre and expect to achieve equity partnership status within two to three years.

Please write with C.V. to: TITLEY, PATER-CROW & FERRIS
4 North Park Road, Harrogate
North Yorkshire, HG1 5PA
Ref: Mr Blackham

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Available Countrywide for Solicitors with staff emergencies.

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Short and long term emergencies covered for all legal aspects.

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Salary negotiable c.£12,000

Fast growing practice in W11 require a Solicitor, at least 2 years admitted and ideally with some knowledge of London conveyancing.

TEMPLE ASSOCIATES,
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for general work with a litigation focus. Good prospects. Would suit experienced solicitor with 2-3 years relevant experience. Salary £12,000 - £14,000. Call Mary.

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LITIGATION SOLICITORS MANCHESTER

Brian Thompson & Partners seek solicitors to undertake substantial personal injury litigation and work in the field of employment law. The successful applicant will have some experience and a particular interest in such work and will be able to undertake it with a minimum of supervision. Competitive salaries and other benefits, according to age, ability and experience, will be available to successful applicants.

Written applications including C.V. should be made to G. W. Carter.

Brian Thompson & Partners
Quay House, Quay Street
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We urgently need a young

HIGH CALIBRE SOLICITOR

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This will be a challenging job in a pleasant part of the world. We will pay a top salary and offer early partnership.

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to assist and rejuvenate our ageing senior partner

Apply to William Morris

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Cambs PE13 1EA

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The post encompasses dealing with a varied range of company law matters in a small but busy corporate law department, together with involvement in the development of new services and products. The successful applicant should be enthusiastic, energetic, commercially minded and have the ability to work well both under pressure and as part of a team. Previous practical experience in company law

